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Papers of the
Continental Congress
1774-1789



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are from

Records of the Continental and Confederation

Congresses and the Constitutional Convention

Record Group 360

in the National Archives

PAPERS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS
1774-1789

On the 204 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses, 1774-89, which are informally referred to as the Papers of the Continental Congress or the PCC. These records, which include only the numbered Items and the indexes to them, are in 518 bindings that are arranged in a numerical sequence of 196 series referred to as Item numbers.* The numbers 1-194 were assigned by William A. Weaver, a clerk in the State Department, and listed in his Catalogue of Manuscript Books in 1835. The numbers 195 and 196 were added after the Papers came into the custody of the Library of Congress in 1903. In 1952, as official records of the Federal Government, the Papers were transferred to the National Archives and are part of the Records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, Record Group 360. In addition to the main body of these numbered items, there are unnumbered series of records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses that are reproduced on microfilm as Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-89 (M332).

The First Continental Congress, which met in Philadelphia on September 5, 1774, included representatives from all 13 colonies except Georgia. The Congress was convened for the purpose of discussing and addressing grievances to the British Crown and Parliament and among its earliest acts was the election of Peyton Randolph as President and Charles Thomson as Secretary of Congress, the latter serving in that capacity until the Federal Government was established in 1789.

In contrast to the First Continental Congress, which adjourned October 26, 1774, after having been assembled less than 2 months, the Second Continental Congress enjoyed a migratory history that extended over a period of almost 6 years. This Congress met for the first time on May 10, 1775, in Philadelphia and then convened successively in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Lancaster (1 day only), York, and Philadelphia. This was the Congress that approved the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776.

The First Continental Congress conducted its affairs either through the body as a whole or through special committees appointed as needed. Soon after the Second Continental Congress assembled at Philadelphia on May 10, 1775, it became apparent that this system was too unwieldy and cumbersome to permit

*For a history of the custody and preservation of the Papers see Carl L. Lokke, "The Continental Congress Papers: Their History, 1789-1952," National Archives Accessions No. 51 (1954): 1-19.

effective action. The Congress then established standing committees and boards to which delegates were permanently assigned. With the ratification of the Articles of Confederation on March 2, 1781, the Congress after much deliberation established executive offices under the direction of persons not in Congress. Robert Livingston was chosen as Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Robert Morris as Superintendent of Finance and Agent of Marine, and Benjamin Lincoln as Secretary at War.

Thus a new central government was formed under which the Confederation Congresses met until the establishment of the Federal Government following the ratification of the Constitution. The final session of the last Congress convened under the Articles of Confederation adjourned October 11, 1788, and on March 4, 1789, the First Congress of the United States met in New York City.

Secretary Thomson was responsible for maintaining the Rough Journals, 1774-89, which constitute Item 1. Volume 15, for the period March 19-May 2, 1778, is missing, but journal entries for this period are in volumes 7 and 8 of the Transcript Journals (Item 2). The daily entries made in the Rough Journals and in the supplementary record books kept by the Secretary provide a complete record of motions and resolutions passed, letters received and read, committees appointed, and reports made. Deliberations and speeches of the Members, and usually the text of letters and reports, were omitted. The Journals contain copies of many important documents, including a printed copy from the first printing of the Declaration of Independence.

Edited transcripts of the Rough Journals for the period September 5, 1775-January 20, 1779, are known as the "Transcript" or "Corrected" Journals (Item 2). These transcripts, which are mostly in Thomson's handwriting, served as a basis for the contemporary printed Journals. They apparently constitute the copy that passed through the various committees appointed from time to time to prepare the Journals for printing. The committees crossed out or marked by dots in the margin the records of actions that the Congresses did not wish to publish.

The Office of the Secretary also maintained journals in which the secret proceedings of the Congresses were recorded: Secret Domestic Journal (Item 3), Secret Foreign and Domestic Journal (Item 4), Secret Foreign Journal (Item 5), Imperfect Secret Journal (Item 6), Rough Secret Journal (Item 6A), More Secret Journal (Item 7), Original of the More Secret Journal (Item 7A), and Secret Journal (Item 8). Some of the entries are duplicated in various copies of the Secret Journals and a few in the Rough Journals.

The Secretary maintained a number of other books in addition to the Journals described above. The despatch books

(Item 185) and registers of reports from boards, offices, and committees (Items 186, 189-191), in particular, supplement the Journals.

Other records kept by the Secretary were the letter books of the Presidents of Congress (Items 12A-16); copies of Indian treaties (Item 174); copies of ordinances of the Congresses, 1781-88 (Item 175); copies of ordinances and other records relating to the Western Territory of the United States (Item 176); returns of inhabitants of various States and miscellaneous papers (Item 177); a record of abridged resolves (Item 178); and reports of the Secretary of Congress (Item 180), a record book begun by Thomson after the duties of the Committee of the Week were transferred to him on August 29, 1785.

Documentation of the conduct of affairs in each of these areas is not only in the Journals of the Congresses but also in the records maintained by the committees and the departments that succeeded them and in their reports to the Presidents of the Congresses.

Most of the records are not arranged in a manner that reflects the identity of each of the two Continental Congresses and of the Confederation Congresses. They are chiefly arranged by type, such as journals, committee reports, correspondence, memorials, and petitions, and thereunder chronologically or alphabetically. In many instances the date span of individual series, such as those listed above, encompasses the Continental and Confederation Congresses. Groups of closely related documents are widely separated in the numbered series; even many parts of essentially the same body of documents are so separated. On the other hand, groups of wholly unrelated records often constitute a single volume in the series in which the documents are numbered consecutively. Not all documents of a given type are in the series as designated in the titles; nor does the title of a series always give a clue to its principal contents.

Part of the Papers are in manuscript volumes (blank books in which records were copied). These volumes consist of the Journals ("rough," "corrected," and "secret") and other record books maintained by Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental and Confederation Congresses; the letter books (containing copies of letters sent) of the Presidents of the Congresses and of a few committees, such as the Committee to Headquarters and the Committee for Foreign Affairs; transcripts of original diplomatic despatches received from U.S. political agents and ministers abroad, and of letters received from French Envoys in the United States and from Generals Washington, Gates, Greene, and Schuyler; and a few supplementary record books kept by the Department of Foreign Affairs and containing copies of passports and copies of commissions of foreign ministers and consuls.

Other numbered Items of the Papers consist of individual documents that were arranged by groups and mounted on pages of blank books. These include committee reports; memorials and petitions addressed to the Congresses; official communications from the several States; a large number of miscellaneous letters addressed chiefly to the Presidents of the Congresses; original letters (despatches) received from U.S. political agents and diplomatic and consular representatives abroad; letters (notes) from the Dutch, French, and Spanish Envoys in the United States; records relating to claims for captured vessels, including some decisions by the admiralty courts of the various States; records relating to the New Hampshire Grants controversy; letters from George Washington and other general officers; oaths of allegiance; ships' bonds required for Letters of Marque issued to American privateers; and letters and reports from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Board of Treasury, the Office of the Superintendent of Finance, the Board of War, the Secretary at War, and the Office of the Postmaster General.

Many volumes of the mounted documents were rebound by the Department of State or by the Library of Congress into "bindings" that differ in size from the original volumes. Complete volumes, rather than complete bindings, have been filmed on a single roll. The backstrip on a binding shows the volume and page numbers for the material contained in the volume, and this information is given in the notes on each roll. Blank pages, although numbered, have not been reproduced in this microfilm publication. Where the word "Papers" occurs it reflects the formal title on the backstrip of the pertinent volume, but it does not imply that the series is composed of private papers or of personal collections of manuscripts.

Although most of the Papers of the Continental and Confederation Congresses are dated within the period 1774-89, a few volumes contain earlier and several contain later documents. Record books maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs were continued in use by Thomas Jefferson when he became Secretary of State. A volume of copies of commissions and letters of credence of foreign ministers and consuls (Item 129) contains copies of documents dated as late as 1821.

On the first 7 rolls of this microfilm publication are two types of indexes that apply to most of the Papers. The first type consists of three separate alphabetical card indexes prepared in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. The first one, compiled by Dorothy S. Eaton, indexes 73 of the 196 Items of the Papers by name and sometimes by subject. This index also contains references to certain "miscellany," which are documents relating to the Congresses that have been retained by the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress; these documents have not been included in this microfilm publication. The second index, compiled by John C. Fitzpatrick, is a name

index to Item 78, [Miscellaneous] Letters Addressed to Congress, 1775-89. The third, compiler unknown, is a name index to Item 195, Oaths of Allegiance, 1776-89. A total of 61 Items indexed by the card indexes are also covered by one or more of the bound-manuscript indexes.

The second type of index is a series of eight bound-manuscript indexes, most of which were compiled during the period 1835-55. Although nine bound-manuscript indexes were prepared by the State Department, Index 4 is in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93, and does not index any of the numbered series described in this microfilm publication. The remaining eight indexes constituting 12 volumes index 166 of the 196 numbered Items of the Papers. Each entry gives the date of a document, the type of document or a brief abstract, the Item number, and the volume and page numbers. Entries are arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of the name of the writer or of the person or subject to which the document refers.

For the convenience of the reader some of the bound-manuscript indexes have been repeated on rolls containing the documents to which they relate: Index 1, repeated on roll 26, indexes the reports of committees on rolls 26-41; Index 6, repeated on roll 78, indexes the State papers on rolls 78-89; and Index 9, repeated on roll 48, indexes the memorials, petitions, and remonstrances on rolls 48-57 and 62.

None of the indexes described above apply to Items 1-8, 10, 11, 17, 36, 39, 115A, 115B, 116, 126, 127, 174, 178, 181-191, or 196. Several volumes of the Papers contain individual indexes, or "descriptive lists," that may help in locating documents within the volume; these indexes are described in the roll notes relating to that specific volume.

Foreign Affairs

Among the records reproduced in this publication are documents relating to the conduct of foreign affairs by the old standing Committee of Secret Correspondence, formed on November 29, 1775, and renamed the Committee for Foreign Affairs on April 17, 1777, and by the Department of Foreign Affairs, established on January 10, 1781. Copies of instructions to U.S. diplomatic and consular representatives abroad, issued by both committees and by Robert Livingston, are in the three volumes that constitute Item 79. These volumes also contain original letters and reports sent by Livingston, chiefly to the President of Congress. Copies of Livingston's instructions to U.S. diplomatic and consular representatives abroad, some of which duplicate those in Item 79, are in Item 118, and copies of his letters sent mainly to the President of the Confederation Congress are in Item 119.

After Livingston's term of office ended in June 1783 there was no Secretary for Foreign Affairs until John Jay took office in December 1784. During this period the President of the Confederation Congress and special committees assumed responsibility for foreign affairs. Copies of the letters sent by Presidents Elias Boudinot and Thomas Mifflin are in the Letter Books of the Presidents of Congress (Item 16), and the committee reports are in Reports of Committees of Congress Relating to the Department of Foreign Affairs (Item 25). Also included are numerous reports of earlier and later special committees assigned by the Congresses to report on foreign affairs brought to their attention.

Items 80 and 81 contain mainly transmittal letters and drafts of reports from Jay after he became Secretary for Foreign Affairs, sent chiefly to the Confederation Congress. Copies of his reports are in Item 124 and copies of his letters are in another series, American Letters (Item 120, reproduced on microfilm as rolls 1-4 of M40, Domestic Letters of the Department of State, 1784-92). A volume titled Foreign Letters (Item 121, reproduced as M61, Foreign Letters of the Continental Congress and the Department of State, 1785-90) contains copies of instructions sent to U.S. diplomatic and consular representatives abroad by Jay and his successor, Thomas Jefferson.

Other records of the Department of Foreign Affairs and of its predecessors include despatches received from American agents, members of joint commissions, and ministers who represented the United States abroad (Items 82-93); and letters from foreign ministers representing their countries in the United States (Items 94-97 and 99). Copies of most of these documents were made by the Department or its predecessors and are also a part of this microfilm publication (Items 100-116).

Fiscal Affairs

For a few months after the Second Continental Congress convened, fiscal affairs were managed by the Congress or special committees. On July 29, 1775, Michael Hillegas and George Clymer, Delegates to the Congress, were appointed Joint Treasurers of the United Colonies, and on September 25, 1775, a Committee of Accounts or Claims, consisting of one member from each colony, was established. This committee examined and settled accounts and then reported its decisions to Congress, which had to approve the settlements before payments could be made. On February 17, 1776, a standing Committee on the Treasury was established, which later became known as the Board of Treasury. The Committee was composed of five Members of Congress whose duties were to superintend the Treasury and report to Congress on the status of funds, the liquidation and settlement of accounts, and other Treasury business. On July 30, 1779, the composition of the Board was changed to include only two Members of Congress and three nonmembers.

After the executive departments were established and Robert Morris was appointed Superintendent of Finance and Agent of Marine, an ordinance was passed on September 11, 1781, that abolished the positions of commissioners of the treasury, chambers of accounts, and auditor general. The ordinance also provided that in addition to the Superintendent of Finance and his assistant there should be a comptroller, a treasurer, a register, auditors, and clerks, all appointed by the Confederation Congress. After 3 years of service Robert Morris resigned on November 1, 1784, and a plan for reestablishing the Board of Treasury, which had been approved by Congress on May 28, 1784, was put into effect. The Board was composed of three commissioners and continued until the new Federal Government was formed in 1789.

Although some records of the Board of Treasury were apparently transferred to the Department of the Treasury established under the Constitution in 1789, other records relating to fiscal affairs remained among the Papers of the Continental and Confederation Congresses. These are primarily documents submitted to the Presidents of the Congresses. Included are reports of various committees (Items 26 and 34); reports, letters, estimates, and other records of the Board of Treasury (Items 136, 138-141, and 144); accounts of the Register's Office (Item 142); records of unsettled accounts and returns of stores (Item 143); letters from the Comptroller of the Treasury (Item 35); letters and reports from Robert Morris (Item 137); and letters and reports from John Pierce, Paymaster General and Commissioner for Army Accounts, and records relating to Ezekiel Forman and John Gibson, Commissioners of the Board of Treasury (Item 62).

Military Affairs

The evolution of the Department of War was similar to that of the Treasury Department. At first national defense was carried on by Congress or by special committees. On June 12, 1776, a board of War and Ordnance composed of five Members of the Second Continental Congress was established, but its authority was limited and the special committees continued to function. On July 18, 1777, Congress adopted a resolution providing for the appointment of a Board of War to be composed of three persons who were not Members of Congress. Later it was decided to increase the number of members on the Board to five, and by November 27, 1777, Thomas Mifflin, Timothy Pickering, Horatio Gates, Joseph Trumbull, and Richard Peters had been chosen.

In accordance with plans for establishing executive departments, a resolution was passed by Congress on February 7, 1781, providing for a Secretary at War. The Board of War continued to function, however, until October 30, 1781, when Gen. Benjamin Lincoln was elected Secretary. On October 29, 1783, Lincoln's resignation was accepted and Joseph Carleton managed the affairs of the Board until Gen. Henry Knox was elected Secretary on

March 4, 1785.

Because many records of the Board of War and its predecessors were transferred to the Department of War established under the Constitution, the records relating to the conduct of the war that remained among the Papers consisted chiefly of documents submitted to the Presidents of the Congresses. Among them are reports of various committees (Items 21, 22, 27, and 33(part)); letters and other records of the Committee to Headquarters (Item 39); reports and letters from the Board of War and Ordnance (Items 147 and 148); letters from Joseph Carleton and Thomas Hutchins (Item 60); letters and reports from Benjamin Lincoln, Secretary at War, 1781-83 (Item 149); and letters and reports from Henry Knox, Secretary at War, 1785-88 (Items 150 and 151).

Other records relating to military affairs include letters from George Washington as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army (Item 152) and from general and other officers (Items 153-164 and 166), letters from colonels (Item 165), and transcripts of letters from some general officers (Items 169-172); and letters from Gen. Nathanael Greene and records relating to the Quartermaster's Department (Items 173 and 192).

Naval Affairs

Early naval affairs were administered by special committees and later by a standing Naval Committee. On December 14, 1775, another committee, consisting of one delegate from each State, was formed. Because the membership of the two groups was nearly the same, the old committee was absorbed by the new one, which later became known as the Marine Committee. In addition there were two naval boards, each with three persons who were not Members of Congress, whose duties were to assist the Marine Committee in administering naval affairs. The first board was appointed at Philadelphia in November 1776 and the second in April 1777. The headquarters was in Boston.

The Marine Committee continued to manage naval affairs until October 28, 1779, when a resolution was passed by the Second Continental Congress providing for a Board of Admiralty composed of two Members of Congress and three nonmembers. On February 7, 1781, a resolution approved by Congress provided for a Secretary of Marine, but none was elected. The Board of Admiralty and the two naval boards continued to function until the duties of the Office of the Marine were delegated to Robert Morris, who was appointed Superintendent of Finance and Agent of Marine on September 7, 1781.

Documents relating to naval affairs are in letters and reports from Robert Morris (Item 137); letters and other records of John Paul Jones (Items 132(pt.), 168, and 193(pt.)); letters

from John Hancock and miscellaneous records, including letters from John Paul Jones; the Marine Committee, Commodore Esek Hopkins, and Col. John Allan (Item 58); letters of the Naval Board and reports of the Marine Committee and the Board of Admiralty (Item 37); reports of other committees, including those of the Admiralty and Agent of Marine (Item 28); and various reports, including those of the commissioners for settling Marine accounts and reports by the Committee of Commerce (Item 31).

Among the Papers are some documents relating to Revolutionary War prize cases that included claims for captured vessels (Item 44) and reports of committees on appeals from the State admiralty courts relating to prizes and on the establishment of a court of appeals in cases of capture (Item 29). (See also Microfilm Publication M162, The Revolutionary War Prize Cases: Records of the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, 1776-87.)

Postal System

The plan for the Post Office approved by the Second Continental Congress on July 26, 1775, provided for a postal system to be supervised by a Postmaster General with offices at Philadelphia. Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first Postmaster General; he was succeeded by Richard Bache on November 7, 1776, who in turn was succeeded by Ebenezer Hazard, elected on January 28, 1782. The only documents among the Papers of the Continental and Confederation Congresses relating to the administration of the Post Office are the letters and papers of Richard Bache and Ebenezer Hazard, and reports of Committees of Congress on the Post Office (Item 61), and copies of reports from committees appointed to inquire into proceedings of the executive departments (Item 188).

Related Records

Record Group 360 includes many other documents relating to the records reproduced in this microfilm publication. Among the more important are the engrossed copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. There are also unnumbered series of records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses that are reproduced on microfilm as Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-89 (M332), that include credentials of Delegates from each State to successive Congresses; reports of the Marine Committee, 1776-79; the Marine Committee Letter Book, 1776-80; documents relating to the cession of western lands to the Federal Government by Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia; broadsides issued by Congress, 1775-88; letters and copies of letters to Congress from Louis XVI, King of France, 1778-87; and signed original, duplicate, and triplicate despatches, unsigned contemporary copies, and some press copies, addressed chiefly to Congress from John Adams, John Bondfield,

William Carmichael, Francis W. Dana, Charles W. F. Dumas, Benjamin Franklin, Richard Harrison, Ralph Izard, John Jay, Henry Laurens, John Laurens, Arthur Lee, and other U.S. diplomatic and consular representatives abroad. Although most of these documents are duplicated in numbered Items of the Papers of the Continental and Confederation Congresses, some are not. They were presumably misplaced, overlooked, or in private hands in 1834 when the Papers were arranged and numbered.

Among the records in Record Group 360 that relate to the Federal Convention of 1787 are the Journal of the Constitutional Convention, which is in four parts as follows: (1) Formal Journal of the Convention, May 14-September 15, 1787, (2) Journal of the Proceedings of the Committee of the Whole House, May 30-June 19, 1787, (3) Voting Record: Ayes, Noes, and Divided Votes, in a record book, and (4) Voting Record: Loose Sheets of Ayes, Noes, and Divided Votes, on unbound sheets that were later bound in a separate volume. There is also a volume titled Ratifications of the Constitution [Bankson's Journal], a record book into which have been copied the instruments of ratification by the States, 1786-91; a copy of the Report of the Annapolis Convention of September 14, 1786; a copy of the resolution of the Confederation Congress of February 21, 1787, authorizing the Philadelphia Convention; copies of credentials of Delegates to the Convention from the several States (the original credentials are missing); a copy of the drafted Constitution; a copy of the letter by George Washington as President of the Convention transmitting the Constitution to Congress, September 17, 1787; a copy of the resolution of Congress submitting the Constitution to the several States, September 28, 1787; and a copy of the 12 proposed amendments followed by the acts and resolutions of the States ratifying the Bill of Rights. The originals of most of the documents copied in Bankson's Journal are either in this record group or among The Constitution Papers in General Records of the United States Government, Record Group 11.

There are additional documents pertaining to the Federal Convention among the official Records of the Constitutional Convention and among the Loose Papers of David Brearley. They include copies of the Randolph (Va.); Paterson (N.J.); and Hamilton plans of union; printed drafts of the Constitution brought in to the Convention by the Committee of Detail and the Committee of Style and Revision; the Report of the Grand Committee; and a few individual letters.

Records relating to the activities of the Continental and Confederation Congresses are also in other record groups. Among them are pre-Federal records of the old executive departments that were transferred to their successors set up under the Constitution. Many such records were destroyed in Treasury Department and War Department fires, but others remain. The records are listed below according to subject and thereunder by

record group. Most of them are parts of series extending into the Federal period.

The Constitution and General Records of the U.S. Government

Among the General Records of the United States Government, Record Group 11, are the engrossed copy of the Constitution of the United States; the original instruments of ratifications of the Constitution, which are reproduced on microfilm as Certificates of Ratification of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, Including Related Correspondence and Rejections of Proposed Amendments, 1787-92 (M338); Numbered Ratified Indian Treaties, 1722-1868, and related records (M668); and letters and other records concerning land disputes among the several States.

Among General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, is a manuscript copy of the Journal of the Constitutional Convention, compiled for John Quincy Adams' official edition of the Journal, Acts and Proceedings, of the Convention (Boston: Thomas B. Wait, 1819), with related papers including a letter from Charles Pinckney to Adams, December 30, 1818, transmitting an alleged draft of the Constitution.

Foreign Affairs

In General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, is a volume titled Ceremonial Letters, France, which contains several original letters and copies of letters from Louis XVI and a cashbook kept by the Department of Foreign Affairs, 1785-95. Reproduced on microfilm from this record group are volume 1 of Notes From Foreign Legations, Netherlands, September 17, 1784-May 9, 1836 (roll 1 of M56), which contains copies of several notes sent by the Netherlands Legation in the United States to the Confederation Congress; volume 1 of Consular Despatches, Algiers, April 4, 1785-November 8, 1795 (roll 1 of M23), with copies of letters to Thomas Jefferson and William Carmichael as diplomatic representatives, from Richard O'Brien, an American held captive by the Dey of Algiers; volume 1 of Consular Despatches, Alicante, August 5, 1788-December 14, 1834 (roll 1 of T357), with a despatch dated August 5, 1788, from Robert Montgomery, U.S. commercial agent to Spain; volume 1 of Consular Despatches, Havana, December 14, 1783-October 2, 1807 (roll 1 of T20), with a letter dated December 14, 1783, from Oliver Pollock, U.S. commercial agent to Cuba; and volume 1 of Territorial Papers, Florida, 1777-1811 (roll 1 of M116), which contains letters dated 1777-79 from William Bingham, U.S. agent in Martinique, to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Fiscal Affairs

Records of the Bureau of Accounts (Treasury), Record Group 39, include records relating to the receipt and expenditure of

and accounting for public funds, consisting of ledgers of accounts, 1776-89 (with gaps); a volume of Continental Army accounts, 1779-81; blotters of accounts, 1782-1810; surety bonds for accountable officers of the United States, 1783-1925; and a journal of accounts, 1787-89.

In Records of the Bureau of the Public Debt, Record Group 53, are waste books, 1776-78 and 1785-86; a transfer ledger, 1777-85; a journal, 1787-89; a ledger of the accounts of Ferdinand Grand, a Parisian banker, 1777-85; some Revolutionary lottery journals listing ticket numbers and prizes; a copy of the 1786 edition of The Register of the Certificates Issued by John Pierce . . . Paymaster General and Commissioner of Army Accounts for the United States; and records of loans, 1776-1836, arranged by States, consisting principally of journals, ledgers, and registers of subscriptions to loans, of interest (dividend) payments, and of unclaimed dividends. These records include copies of letters sent by Commissioner Nathaniel Appleton of Massachusetts, 1785-91.

General Records of the Department of the Treasury, Record Group 56, include a manuscript volume of George Washington's account of expenses as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, 1775-83.

Records of the United States General Accounting Office, Record Group 217, include waste books, journals, and ledgers, 1776-89, and accounts recording the settlement of Revolutionary War claims.

Military Affairs

Among Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15, are pension and bounty land records of Revolutionary War veterans.

General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, include volume 1 of Territorial Papers, Florida, 1777-1811 (roll 1 of M116), containing a printed copy of a plan for conducting the Military Hospital Department of the United States, 1780. In the same record group is a manuscript journal of activities, 1779-82, of three New York quartermaster officers--Alexander Church, Archibald Ramsey, and Zephaniah Halsey.

The War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93, includes records of that period transferred to the Department of War when it was established by the act of August 7, 1789. Although many of the records were lost or destroyed during the fires of 1800 and 1814, the collection was increased in 1873 when the Department purchased some records of the pre-Federal period from a private collector and when Congress later authorized the transfer of all "military records"

for the Revolutionary War period from the Treasury, Interior, and State Departments to the War Department. Among the records are several bound volumes containing letters of Timothy Pickering, a member of the Board of War, Adjutant General of the Army, and Quartermaster General, 1775-85, and two volumes containing the outgoing letters of Samuel Hodgdon, Commissary General of Military Stores during the same period. Most of the unbound records in the collection are muster rolls, returns, pay abstracts, receipts for pay, receipts for land, oaths of allegiance, and miscellaneous records relating to supply and personnel; a collection of photostats of Revolutionary War records in Massachusetts, Maine, Virginia, and North Carolina; 5,262 glass-plate negatives of Revolutionary War documents on file in county seats of Virginia; and compiled military service records of Revolutionary War soldiers, 1775-84.

Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94, include administrative records relating to officers of the Regular Army, 1780-1920; muster rolls of regular and volunteer organizations, 1784-1912; records of the Appointment, Commission, and Personal Branch, 1783-1923; and compiled military service records, 1784-1903.

Naval Affairs

Among the Records of the Bureau of Ships, Record Group 19, are copies of drawings and paintings of ships dating from 1775.

The Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library, Record Group 45, includes documents dated as early as 1775 in the area file and in the subject file; microfilm copies of records of Nathaniel Shaw, a New London merchant and Continental Agent during the Revolution, 1775-83; circulars, general orders, and instructions, 1776-1913, among which are printed instructions from the Second Continental Congress to commanders of privateers, dated April 3, 1776; and originals and transcripts of logs, journals, and diaries of officers of the U.S. Navy at sea, 1776-1910, most of them acquired from naval officers or their heirs. Among these are copies of logs of the Wasp, 1776; the Ranger, 1777-80; the Bonhomme Richard, 1779; H.M.S. Serapis, 1779; the Alliance, 1779-80; and the Ariel, 1780. Also acquired from private sources are logs and journals of American privateers and merchant vessels, 1776-1869; account books of naval vessels, 1777-1879; a large collection of letter books of naval officers, 1778-1909; and documents relating to John Paul Jones, 1778-91.

The Records of the Supreme Court of the United States, Record Group 267, include records of prize cases heard on appeal from Colonial and State courts by committees of the Second Continental Congress (1776-80) and by the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture (1780-87). These records are reproduced on

microfilm as The Revolutionary War Prize Cases: Records of the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, 1776-87 (M162).

Postal System

Among the Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, are a copy of the journal of Hugh Finley, Surveyor of Post Roads and Post Offices, 1773-74; a ledger containing the account of Benjamin Franklin as Postmaster General of the Colonies, 1775-76, and accounts of Richard Bache as Postmaster General, 1776-78; and other journals, ledgers, and cashbooks of the General Post Office for different intervals during the period 1782-96.

Records Relating to Other Subjects

Records of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, Record Group 41, include records relating to the documentation, ownership, and inspection of vessels. The records were received from Collectors of Customs for the Port of Baltimore, 1783-1912.

General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, also include a volume titled Southwest Territorial Papers, which contains undated minutes on the reading of petitions from refugee loyalists asking for compensation in the forms of land grants in West Florida from the Governor and Council of British West Florida; volume 1 of Northwest Territorial Papers, which contains a printed copy of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, signed by Charles Thomson, and a report dated January 15, 1789, from Winthrop Sargent, Secretary of the Northwest Territory, enclosing copies of the laws adopted and published in the Territory of the United States Northwest of the River Ohio, 1787-88; and a journal of the proceedings, July 9-December 31, 1788; of Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Territory.

Among the Records of the National Park Service, Record Group 79, is a volume titled "Proceedings of the Board of President and Directors of the Potowmack Company, 1785-1807." The company was a predecessor of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Co.

Published Versions of the Papers of the Continental and Confederation Congresses

Several of the numbered Items of the Papers of the Continental and Confederation Congresses reproduced in this microfilm publication have also been included in other publications. The Rough Journals (Item 1) and unduplicated entries from the Secret Journals (Items 3-8) have been published by the Library of Congress in Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789 (Washington, 1904-37. 34 vols.). These volumes also contain references to many other documents among the numbered Items.

Diplomatic correspondence from 1776 to 1783 was compiled by Jared Sparks and published as The Diplomatic Correspondence of the American Revolution (Boston, 1829-39. 12 vols.); in 1857 it was reprinted in 6 volumes. In 1889 a revised and expanded edition of Sparks' compilation was published as The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States, edited by Francis Wharton (Washington, 1889. 6 vols.). Diplomatic correspondence from 1783 to the formation of the Federal Government was compiled by William A. Weaver of the State Department and published as The Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States of America, From the Signing of the Definitive Treaty of Peace, 10th September, 1783, to the Adoption of the Constitution, March 4, 1789 (Washington, 1833-34. 7 vols.).

The international treaties (1776-1818) have been printed in volume 2 of Treaties and Other International Acts of the United States of America, edited by Hunter Miller (Washington, 1931-48. 8 vols.), and in volume VIII (European Treaties, 1778-1845) of the United States Statutes at Large, edited by Richard Peters (Boston, 1846). For the published Indian treaties see volume 2, (Treaties) of Indian Affairs. Laws and Treaties., compiled and edited by Charles J. Kappler (Washington, 1904-13. 3 vols.); volume VII (Indian Treaties) of the United States Statutes at Large, edited by Richard Peters (Boston, 1846), and American State Papers: Indian Affairs, selected and edited by Walter Lowrie, Matthew St. Clair Clarke, and Walter S. Franklin (Washington, 1832-34. 2 vols.).

Other selected documents from the Papers of the two Continental Congresses have been published in Peter Force, American Archives, 4th and 5th Series (1774-76); and in Edmund C. Burnett, Letters of Members of the Continental Congress (Washington, 1921-36. 8 vols.). Naval Records of the American Revolution: 1775-1788 (Washington, 1906) is a calendar of records relating to naval and marine affairs.

Kenneth E. Harris has revised the introductory remarks and contents and compiled the index to the contents of this publication, which was first filmed in 1959.

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Indexes and Item 1

Card Indexes Nos. 1-3

Card Index No. 1 indexes Items 12A, 14-16, 18, 19, 49-77, 79-115, and 157. It is arranged alphabetically by name of person and occasionally by subject. Card Index No. 2 indexes Item 78, and Card Index No. 3, Item 195.

Roll

- 1 Card Index No. 1, A-G
- 2 H-P
- 3 Q-Z, and Card Indexes Nos. 2-3

Bound-Manuscript Indexes Nos. 1-9

Roll

- 4 Vols. 1-3 and 5
Vol. 1, Reports of Committees of Congress, 1776-89, indexes Items 19-35, 37, 40, and 180. Vol. 2, Reports and Letters of the Executive Departments, 1776-89, indexes Items 62, 81, 136-140, and 147-151. Vol. 3, Letters of the Presidents and Secretaries of Congress, 1776-89, indexes Items 13-16, 18, 49, and 58. Vol. 5 (title obliterated) indexes Items 9, 12, 38, 44-47, 50-61, 63, 128-131, 141-145, 166, 167, 175-177, 179, 193, and 194.
- 5 Vol. 6 and Index No. 7, 1st Series
Vol. 6, State Papers, 1775-89, indexes Items 64-77. Index No. 7, 1st Series, Foreign Correspondence, 1775-89, indexes Items 79, 80, 82-92, 100-110, and 118.
- 6 Index No. 7, 2d Series
Foreign and Domestic Correspondence, With an Appendix, 1775-92, indexes Items 102, 117-125, 132-135, and 146.
- 7 Indexes Nos. 8-9
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Item 1, Rough Journals, 1774-89

Roll

- 8 Sept. 5, 1774-Apr. 12, 1777 (vols. 1-8)
Includes entries for the proceedings of the First Congress and part of the Second Congress, which met at Philadelphia and Baltimore during this period. A printed copy of the Declaration of Independence, with printed signatures of the President and the

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Items 2-5

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- Secretary of Congress, is in vol. 3. Drafts of the Articles of Confederation and plans of treaties with foreign powers also are in the volumes.
- 9 Apr. 14, 1777-Aug. 24, 1778 (vols. 9-14, 16-17)
Includes entries for sessions held at Philadelphia, Lancaster, and York. Vol. 12 contains a copy of the Articles of Confederation as adopted by Congress on Nov. 15, 1777.
- 10 Aug. 25, 1778-Nov. 8, 1779 (vols. 18-23)
Includes entries for a session held at Philadelphia.
- 11 Nov. 9, 1779-Dec. 1, 1780 (vols. 24-29)
Includes entries for a session held at Philadelphia.
- 12 Dec. 4, 1780-Aug. 14, 1782 (vols. 30-33)
Includes entries for sessions held at Philadelphia. Vol. 30 contains the proceedings of the Confederation Congress after the ratification of the Articles of Confederation by Maryland, the last State to take such action.
- 13 Aug. 15, 1782-Apr. 8, 1785 (vols. 34-36)
Includes entries for sessions held at Philadelphia, Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton, and New York. Vol. 35 contains the proceedings of the Congress relating to the ratification of the peace treaty, Jan. 14, 1784, between the United States and Great Britain.
- 14 Apr. 11, 1785-Mar. 2, 1789 (vols. 37-39)
Includes entries for sessions held at New York.

Item 2, Transcript Journals, 1775-79

Roll

- 15 Sept. 5, 1775-May 14, 1776 (vols. 1-3)
16 May 14, 1776-Sept. 2, 1777 (vols. 4-6)
17 Sept. 3, 1777-Jan. 20, 1779 (vols. 7-10)

Items 3-8, Secret Journals, 1775-88

Roll

- 18 Item 3, Secret Domestic Journal, 1775-87, contains entries that are also in the Rough Journals (Item 1); some entries are duplicated in Item 4 and in the Imperfect Secret Journal (Item 6). Item 4, Secret Foreign and Domestic Journal, 1780-86, contains entries that are duplicated in either the Secret Domestic Journal (Item 3) or the Secret Foreign Journal (Item 5).
- 19 Item 5, Secret Foreign Journal, 1775-88, contains many entries that are not recorded elsewhere, but other entries are also in the Rough Journals (Item 1), the Secret Foreign and Domestic Journal (Item 4),

Roll

- 20 Item 6, Imperfect Secret Journal, 1776-88, contains entries that are duplicated in either the Secret Domestic Journal (Item 3), or the Secret Foreign Journal (Item 5). Item 6A, Rough Secret Journal, 1776-79, is the original record of the proceedings of Congress, Sept. 17, 1776-Jan. 1, 1779, relating to foreign affairs, and from it much of the Imperfect Secret Journal (Item 6) was copied. In the Rough Secret Journal is a copy of the Agreement of Secrecy of Nov. 9, 1775, which bears signatures of 13 Delegates to the Second Continental Congress that are not on the original agreement signed by 87 Delegates. These signatures were added from July 1777 to Jan. 1778.
- 21 Item 7, More Secret Journal, 1781-82, is a copied journal for the period June 6, 1781-Aug. 8, 1782, that pertains chiefly to negotiations for a peace settlement with Great Britain. Many of the entries do not appear in any of the other Journals. Item 7A, Original of the More Secret Journal, 1781-82, consists of unbound manuscript pages from which the More Secret Journal (Item 7) was copied. Item 8, Secret Journal, 1776-83, contains minutes of proceedings dated Apr. 25-Dec. 11, 1776, and Mar. 8, 1781-Jan. 10, 1783, which are recorded elsewhere in the Journals. Included is a record of drafts drawn on the Continental Treasurers from July 12, 1775, to July 12, 1776.

Items 9-12, 1776-86

Roll

- 22 Item 9, History of the Confederation, is a record of the proceedings of the Second Continental Congress that pertained to the adoption and ratification of the Articles of Confederation, 1775-81; Item 10, Journal of the Committee of the States, contains proceedings of the committee appointed to transact the business of the Government during the adjournment of the Confederation Congress, June 4-Aug. 19, 1784; Item 11, Record Book of the Committee to Headquarters, 1780, contains the proceedings and copies of correspondence of the committee appointed by the Second Continental Congress on Apr. 13, 1780, to go to General Washington's Headquarters to aid in effecting reforms in the military establishment; and Item 12, Book of Estimates, contains committee reports concerning the public debt, estimates of future monetary needs, and accounts of expenses, 1781-86 (see also Item 34 for the period 1779-81).

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Items 12A-22

Items 12A-16, Letter Books of the Presidents of Congress,
1775-87

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- 23 Item 12A, John Hancock, 1775-77; and Item 13, Henry Laurens, 1777-78.
- 24 Item 14, John Jay and Samuel Huntington, 1778-80; Item 15, Samuel Huntington, 1780-81; and Item 16, Samuel Huntington, Thomas McKean, John Hanson, Elias Boudinot, Thomas Mifflin, Richard Henry Lee, and Arthur St. Clair, 1781-87.

Items 17-18, Letter Books of the Secretary of Congress,
1779-89

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- 25 Item 17, General Index to the Papers of Congress, indexes Item 18 (vols. A and B) and lists reports of committees on various subjects; and Item 18 (vols. A and B), copies of letters sent by Charles Thomson, Secretary of Congress, 1779-89.

Item 19, Reports of Committees on Applications of Individuals,
1776-89

Reports made by committees assigned by Congress to investigate specific or alleged incidents or to recommend appropriate action on petitions, claims, requests, or complaints. The reports are usually arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of the surname of the person concerned.

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- 26 Vol. 1 of the bound-manuscript indexes--a name and subject index to Item 19 and other Items.
- Reports:
- A-G (vols. I-II)
- 27 H-O (vols. III-IV)
- 28 P-Y (vols. V-VI)

Items 20-35, Other Reports of Committees of Congress,
1776-88

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- 29 Item 20, on communications received by the President of or Delegates to Continental and Confederation Congresses from Governors and other State officials, 1777-88.
- 30 Item 21, on the Army, 1775-85; and Item 22, on hospitals, on the Mustermaster's, Inspector's, Paymaster General's, and Quartermaster's Departments, on the Canadians, and on applications of invalids, 1776-88.

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- 31 Item 23, on the design of a seal for the United States, administrative affairs of Congress, the establishment of a residence for its President, and the qualifications of its Members, 1775-88; and Item 24, on the relations between Congress and the States. Included in Item 24 are drafts of letters and circulars to the inhabitants or the governments of the States on such matters as trade, the progress of the war, and the national debt; reports made by committees sent to various States in an effort to promote better cooperation; and recommendations for days of fast and thanksgiving, 1775-86.
- 32 Item 25, on foreign affairs, 1776-88.
- 33 Item 26, on the operation of the Board of Treasury and the national finances, 1776-88.
- 34 Item 27, on the War Office and the Department of War, 1776-88.
- 35 Item 28, on the Prisoners' Department, the Admiralty and Agent of Marine, the executive departments, and other subjects, 1776-86.
- 36 Item 29, on the Commissary Department, domestic loans and loan offices, loss of certain Army posts, treaties, foreign loans, and courts of appeal, 1776-86.
- 37 Item 30, on Indian affairs and lands in the Western Territory, 1776-88.
- 38 Item 31, on the Clothing Department; reports of the Commissioners of Accounts for the Clothing, Hospital, and Marine Departments; reports of the Committee of Commerce; and miscellaneous reports, with lists of postponed reports, 1777-88.
- 39 Item 32, reports of the Committee of the States, 1784, appointed to transact the business of the United States during the adjournment of the Confederation Congress, June 4-Oct. 31, 1784, and of the Committee of the Week, whose reports are part of the proceedings of the Confederation Congress, 1781-85.
- 40 Item 33, reports of the Committees of Conference with the Commander in Chief at Cambridge, 1775, and Valley Forge, 1778-79, and the proceedings of the Convention of Committees at New Haven, 1778, and Hartford, 1779-80.
- 41 Item 34, on the public debt in 1781 and estimates of expenses, with related papers, 1779-81 (see also Item 12 for 1781-86), and Item 35, letters from the Comptroller of the Treasury and claims of Canadian refugees, with a few reports thereon, 1783-86.

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Item 36, Motions Made in Congress, 1777-88

Roll

- 42 Motions, often in rough form, with additions and deletions noted, concerning military and financial matters, foreign affairs, and domestic matters, 1777-85 (vols. I-II).
- 43 Motions concerning western lands, finance, treaties with the Indians, foreign affairs, a standing Army, and other topics, 1785-88 (vols. III-IV).

Items 37-40, Other Reports of Committees of Congress, 1776-88

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- 44 Item 37, reports of the Marine Committee and the Board of Admiralty, 1776-81.
- 45 Item 38, reports of committees on the Philadelphia mutiny and the peacetime establishment, 1783-86.
- 46 Item 39, letters and other records of the Committee to Headquarters (Philip Schuyler, John Mathews, and Nathaniel Peabody) appointed to confer with the Commander in Chief, 1780.
- 47 Item 40, committee reports and other records on claims of New York and Vermont to the New Hampshire Grants, 1776-84. Among them are letters from Thomas Chittenden, Governor of Vermont.

Item 41, Memorials Addressed to Congress, 1775-88

On such matters as pay increases for military and civilian personnel to compensate for currency depreciation, pay for services performed, requests for commissions in the Army, claims for losses as a result of enemy action or other reasons, the scarcity of commissary supplies, profiteering, and resignations from military service. The memorials are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname.

Roll

- 48 Index No. 9, which indexes Item 41 and other Items.
Memorials:
 - A-B (vol. I)
- 49 C-G (vols. II-III)
- 50 H-L (vols. IV-V)
- 51 M-R (vols. VI-VIII)
- 52 S-Z (vols. IX-X)

Item 42, Petitions Addressed to Congress, 1775-89

Similar to the memorials in Item 41, these petitions relate to such matters as final settlement of accounts, particularly of quartermasters and commissaries; compensation for wartime losses of property and losses suffered by contractors in

transporting the mails; land titles and grants; exchange of prisoners of war, among them Ethan Allen; and appeals from court-martial decisions. The petitions are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname.

Roll

- 53 A-E (vols. I-III)
- 54 F-L (vols. III-IV)
- 55 M-R (vols. V-VI)
- 56 S-Y (vols. VII-VIII)

Item 43. Remonstrances and Addresses to Congress, 1776-88

Roll

- 57 These documents consist of requests for favors and expressions of grievances and are similar to the memorials and petitions in Items 41 and 42. They also relate to such matters as prevention of the slave trade, ratification of the Articles of Confederation, protests against unjust imprisonment, and an appeal for setting up Kentucky as an independent State. The remonstrances and addresses are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname.

Item 44. Claims for Captured Vessels, 1777-84

Roll

- 58 Claims relating to prize cases heard on appeal from Colonial and State courts by committees of the Second Continental Congress (1777-80) and by the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture (1780-84) under the Second Continental and Confederation Congresses. Among the ships concerned are Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Anthony, the Phoenix, L'Amiable Elizabeth, the Holy Martyr, the Unity, the Peggy, the Susannah, and the Lady Washington.

Item 45. Records Relative to Seizure and Confiscation of Property, 1777-86

Roll

- 59 Appeals to Congress, with related documents, by ship-owners who claimed illegal seizure of their ships and cargoes. Among the vessels concerned are the Queen of France, the Diligent, the Chester, the Fair American, and the Experiment.

Items 46-49

Item 46, Proposals on Locating the Seat of Government and Printing the Journals, 1777-89

Roll

- 60 The proposals relating to locations for the seat of government, 1783-88, consist of maps, letters, copies of State acts and resolutions, and addresses to Congress from inhabitants of various towns and cities. The proposals concerning the printing of a school Bible and the reprinting of the Journals of Congress include printing estimate and specifications. Also included are applications for ships' passports (sea letters) and for consular positions.

Item 47, Articles of Confederation, With Plans and Drafts of Treaties and Other Miscellaneous Records, 1775-84

Roll

- 61 Manuscript and printed drafts of the Articles of Confederation, including a draft by Benjamin Franklin read before the Second Continental Congress on July 21, 1775, and the first draft submitted by a committee of the Congress on July 12, 1776, in the handwriting of John Dickinson. Among the plans and drafts for treaties is a committee report in the writing of John Adams that was read before the Second Continental Congress on July 18, 1776. Also included are a few signed consular conventions and secret plans for attacking the British.

Item 48, Memorials of the Inhabitants of Illinois, Kaskaskia, and Kentucky, 1780-89

Roll

- 62 These memorials and petitions were received chiefly from inhabitants of French communities in areas that later became the States of Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Most of the memorials were concerned with the title to land and the maintenance of orderly government.

Item 49, Letters and Papers of Charles Thomson, 1781-89

Roll

- 63 Drafts and miscellaneous records and some correspondence of the Secretary of the Confederation Congress and his office. Included are a letter from James Madison dated Sept. 25, 1786, and Thomson's letter of resignation dated July 23, 1789.

Item 50, Letters and Papers of Oliver Pollock, 1776-85, 1792

Roll

- 64 Mainly copies of letters written by or about Pollock as agent of the Colonies at New Orleans and Havana.

Item 51, Intercepted Letters, 1775-81

Roll

- 65 Letters and other records written by persons in Great Britain or in parts of America held by the British and intercepted by the Americans. Among them are letters in cipher (some decoded) exchanged between General Cornwallis and Colonel Balfour, 1780-81.

Items 52-53, 1775-84

Roll

- 66 Item 52, Records and Letters Relating to the Trial of Certain Counterfeiters in New York and to the British Evacuation of New York, 1783. The trial of counterfeiters was a court-martial held in Aug. 1783 at the order of Sir Guy Carleton, British commander. Documents relating to the evacuation of New York, Apr.-July 1783, consist mainly of copies of letters exchanged between George Clinton, Governor of New York, and Sir Guy Carleton. Item 53, Papers and Affidavits Relating to the Plunderings, Burnings, and Ravages Committed by the British, 1775-84, consists chiefly of affidavits, depositions, and lists of losses.

Item 54, Records and Accounts of Silas Deane, Beaumarchais, and Arthur Lee, 1776-84, and Letters and a Memorial Relating to American Trade in the French West Indies, 1788-89

Roll

- 67 Chiefly documents relating to the settlement of accounts of Silas Deane, political and commercial agent of the United States and member of the Joint Commission to France, 1776.

Item 55, Letters and Papers of Thomas Paine, 1779-85, Records of the Office of Congress, 1781-89, and Records Relating to the Passing of Counterfeit Money, 1776

Roll

- 68 The Thomas Paine documents consist mainly of letters from him relating to an inquiry into his publication of information about secret aid the Americans had received from France. Among the papers of the Office of Congress are letters signed by Charles

Items 56-59

Thomson relating to foreign affairs.

Item 56, Records Relating to Indian Affairs, 1765-89

Roll

- 69 Letters, with many enclosures, from persons appointed to conduct peace negotiations with the Indians in New York, the Ohio and Illinois country, and the South. Among them are letters from Richard Butler, George Rogers Clark, William Clark, John Cleves Symmes, George Clymer, Benjamin Franklin (one letter dated 1787), and Cornplanter, or Captain O'Beal, a Seneca chief.

Item 57, Letters and Papers Concerning the Convention Troops, 1777-80

Roll

- 70 The "convention troops" were the British troops taken prisoner at Saratoga after the surrender of Gen. John Burgoyne to the Americans in Oct. 1777. Most of the documents are letters from Gens. Horatio Gates and William Heath of the Continental Army, and John Burgoyne and William Phillips of the British Army, with enclosures. Some documents concern Henry Hamilton, the British lieutenant governor of Detroit captured by Gen. George Clark at Vincennes in 1779.

Item 58, Letters of John Hancock, and Miscellaneous Papers, 1774-85

Roll

- 71 In addition to letters from John Hancock to Robert Morris, 1776-77, there are groups of letters from Capt. John Paul Jones, the Marine Committee, Commodore Esek Hopkins, and Col. John Allan. Among the miscellaneous documents, 1774-85, are lists of officers recommended for appointment, depositions concerning the conduct of Commodore Hopkins, reports of courts-martial held by order of Hopkins and General Washington, communications from the Commissioners of Accounts to Congress, and a printed copy of a speech by William Franklin, Governor of New Jersey, to the General Assembly on May 16, 1775.

Item 59, Miscellaneous Papers, 1770-89

Roll

- 72 Vols. I and II date from 1775, except for an extract from a 1770 letter concerning grants of lands in Virginia and an undated document purporting to give

Roll

the facts about the "first settlement and granting Charters to the American Provinces" during the period 1584-1732. Among the papers are credentials for State Delegates to Congress; lists of officers and pay tables; resolutions of the New York Assembly; a description of and detailed drawings for a ceremonial sword to be presented to Lafayette; keys to ciphers, apparently used by Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, and C. W. F. Dumas, and communications in cipher; a census report from Connecticut for 1782; and a paper titled "Prisoners of War" summarizing the regulations issued and the action taken from 1775 to 1782. Other documents relate to the examination of and accusations against Capt. John Folger; the plight of Americans captured by Barbary pirates; commercial treaties with foreign powers; and payments made by the Indian Department.

- 73 Vol. III, 1777-89, contains affidavits about the New Hampshire Grants; a schedule of the sales of land in the Western Territory; resolutions of Congress about coinage; and drafts of ordinances. Among the letters are one from Count d'Estaing to General Washington; a letter to President Washington enclosing letters and petitions from Richard O'Brien, prisoner in Algiers; and letters complaining about the postal service. Vol. IV, 1776-89, contains records relating to foreign commercial companies; the dispute between Captain Gillon and the Prince of Luxembourg over the Indienne; the accounts of M. Schweighauser, commercial agent in France; Capt. Gustavus Conyngham; and the capture and condemnation of prizes taken by American privateers.

Item 60, Letters From Joseph Carleton and Thomas Hutchins, 1779-88, and Records Relating to Military Affairs

Roll

- 74 The letters from Joseph Carleton, Secretary and Paymaster of the Board of War and Ordnance, relate to such matters as an estimate of stores needed for an expedition by Gen. George Rogers Clark into the Indian country; a report on invalid pensioners discharged from the Northern Army under a resolution of the Confederation Congress of Apr. 23, 1782; the transfer of documents of the War Office from Philadelphia to New York and an estimate of funds needed for the subsistence of commanding officers at Albany, Fort Pitt, and West Point, 1785. The letters from Thomas Hutchins concern his duties as Geographer of the United States, such as surveying State boundaries. The records relating to military

Items 61-63

affairs include plans and proposals by Gen. Charles Lee and Colonel Nicola; drafts and sketches of Fort George, Stony Point, and the fortifications and harbor of New London, Conn.; and a map of West Point and a document relating to Government land there.

Item 61, Letters and Papers of Richard Bache and Ebenezer Hazard, Postmasters General, 1777-88, and Reports of Committees of Congress on the Post Office, 1776-88

Roll

- 75 Most of the letters from Postmasters General are from Hazard. They relate to such subjects as the need for expanded postal service, financial problems, the difficulties encountered by post riders, and plans for establishing a regular mail service to Europe. The committee reports are chiefly those of two committees, one appointed to revise the regulations and the other to inquire into the operation of the Post Office. With the reports are a list of postmasters, ca. 1788; a statement about the cost of transporting mail and the rates proposed for carrying newspapers; and copies of ordinances for regulating the Post Office.

Item 62, Letters and Reports, 1781-88, From John Pierce, Paymaster General and Commissioner for Army Accounts, and Records Relating to Investigations of Treasury Offices, 1780-81

Roll

- 76 Most of the records of John Pierce were written in his capacity as Commissioner for Army Accounts, mainly about claims for half pay and commutation. The records of the committee of Congress investigating the Treasury offices consist mainly of minutes of hearings. Involved in the charges and countercharges were Ezekiel Forman and John Gibson, Commissioners of the Board of Treasury; Charles Lee, secretary; Francis Hopkinson, Treasurer of Loans; and the Commissioners and a clerk, John Nicholson, of the Chambers of Accounts. A "Declaration" by Col. Benjamin Flower, dated at Philadelphia on Aug. 19, 1778, concerns his conduct as Commissary General of Military Stores.

Item 63, Letters and Other Records Relating to Charges Against Gen. J. Sullivan and Dr. J. Morgan, and to British Advances in the Mohawk Valley, 1776-79

Roll

- 77 The first group of records consists chiefly of testimony relating to an unsuccessful expedition commanded by

Gen. John Sullivan in Aug. 1777 against the British forces on Staten Island. The records relating to the advance of the British forces down the Mohawk Valley and the loss of Fort Ticonderoga are mainly letters, June-Sept. 1777, addressed to Gen. Philip Schuyler by Col. Peter Gansevoort, other military officers, and committees of safety in several New York towns. There are also letters from Gen. Nicholas Herkimer, who led his militia forces in an attempt to relieve Fort Schuyler; and letters, Aug. 1776-July 1779, received by the President of the Second Continental Congress from Dr. John Morgan, Director General of Hospitals and Physician in Chief of the American Army, requesting a hearing on charges made against him.

Items 64-77, State Papers, 1775-91

Letters received by Congress from Governors and other officials of the States, from committees of safety, or from State assemblies. They are concerned mainly with the coordination of activities between Congress and the State governments.

Roll

- 78 Vol. 6 of the bound-manuscript indexes, which indexes
Items 64-77, and Item 64, State Papers of New
Hampshire and of Rhode Island and Providence Plan-
tations, 1775-88.
- 79 Item 65, Massachusetts State Papers, 1775-87.
- 80 Item 66, Connecticut State Papers, 1775-89.
- 81 Item 67, New York State Papers, 1775-88.
- 82 Item 68, New Jersey State Papers, 1775-88.
- 83 Item 69, Pennsylvania State Papers, 1775-91.
- 84 Item 70, Maryland and Delaware State Papers, 1775-89.
- 85 Item 71, Virginia State Papers, 1775-88.
- 86 Item 72, North and South Carolina State Papers, 1776-88.
- 87 Item 73, Georgia State Papers, 1777-88.
- 88 Items 74-76, Acts of the Thirteen States, 1775-88.
- 89 Item 77, Papers Relating to Claims of Territory by
Pennsylvania and Connecticut, 1780-85; Papers Relat-
ing to Trade Regulations for the United States, 1786;
and Petitions About the Indiana Region, 1779-83.

Item 78, [Miscellaneous] Letters Addressed to Congress, 1775-89

Letters addressed chiefly to the President of Congress by Government officials, local officials, military personnel, private citizens, and foreign nationals. There are letters of recommendation for, acceptance of, and refusal of appointment to military and civilian positions and of resignations from such positions; requests for leaves of absence, additional pay to compensate for currency depreciation, passports through enemy

Items 79-81

lines, and overdue pay; complaints about unfair promotion and military rank; transmittal letters for State acts and resolutions and for memorials and petitions; claims for property seized or destroyed by the enemy or American troops; and letters relating to military supplies, Indian affairs, local defense, and the exchange of prisoners of war. Arranged alphabetically by initial letter of surname of writer.

Roll

- 90 A (vol. I)
- 91 B, 1775-80 (vols. II-III)
- 92 B, 1780-89 (vol. IV)
- 93 C (vols. V-VI)
- 94 D-E (vols. VII-VIII)
- 95 F-G (vols. IX-X)
- 96 H (vols. XI-XII)
- 97 I-K (vol. XIII)
- 98 L (vol. XIV)
- 99 M (vols. XV-XVI)
- 100 N-P (vols. XVII-XVIII)
- 101 R (vol. XIX)
- 102 S (vols. XX-XXI)
- 103 T (vol. XXII)
- 104 U-Z (vols. XXIII-XXIV)

Item 79, Letters of the Committee for Foreign Affairs and of Robert R. Livingston, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, 1776-83

Roll

- 105 The letters of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, 1776-82, consist of copies of instructions sent by the committee and its predecessor, the Committee of Secret Correspondence, to diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States abroad and to the Commissioners at Paris. The Robert R. Livingston letters, 1781-83, consist of letters and reports, with enclosures, sent by him as Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the Presidents of the Confederation Congress.

Item 80, Letters From John Jay, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, 1785-88

Roll

- 106 Chiefly transmittal letters for material that is elsewhere among the Papers of the Continental and Confederation Congresses.

Item 81, Reports of John Jay, 1785-88

Roll

- 107 Many of the reports are drafts that John Jay submitted

to the Confederation Congress either at its request or for its approval, such as instructions, commissions, and proposed articles for treaties of amity and commerce to be negotiated by U.S. ministers abroad. A number of the documents relate to negotiations with Don Diego de Gardoqui of Spain for a treaty that would give the United States free navigation of the Mississippi River and settle the boundary of northern Florida.

Item 82, Letters from Benjamin Franklin, 1776-88

Roll

108 Vols. I-II, 1776-83

Letters, and copies of letters, addressed mainly to the President of Congress, to James Lovell of the Committee of Secret Correspondence, to Robert Livingston, and to John Paul Jones. Many pertain to political affairs in Europe and include reports on negotiations for treaties.

109 Vols. III-IV, 1778-88

Vol. III consists of letters addressed to the President of Congress, dated 1783 and 1786-88. Those written in 1783 are mainly political reports on peace negotiations with Great Britain and proposals for treaties of amity and commerce with other European powers. Vol. IV consists of intelligence communications, 1778-80, which were received by Franklin from several sources in Europe and transmitted by him to the Second Continental Congress. Some of the records relate to the capture of the brigantine Berkenbosch by John Paul Jones.

Item 83, Letters From Arthur Lee, 1776-80

Roll

110

Letters addressed mainly to the Committee of Secret Correspondence and to the President of the Second Continental Congress. Among the many enclosures are proposed articles of a treaty with Spain, 1778, and copies of correspondence relating to the use of Prussian ports by American privateers and to letters received by Lee from a British agent.

Item 84, Letters From John Adams, 1777-88

Letters addressed chiefly to the President of Congress and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. They relate to

Items 85-89

Adams' activities as a member of the Joint Commission to France and of the Joint Commission for Negotiating a Treaty of Peace With Great Britain, and as Minister Plenipotentiary to the United Netherlands and Great Britain.

Roll

- 111 1777-80 (vols. I-II)
- 112 1781-83 (vols. III-IV)
- 113 1783-88 (vols. V-VI)

Items 85-86, 1777-86

Roll

- 114 Item 85, Letters From the Joint Commissioners for Negotiating Treaties With France and Great Britain, 1777-84, consists of two groups of despatches, the first dated 1777-79, received from Silas Deane, Benjamin Franklin, and Arthur Lee, and the second dated 1782-84, received from John Adams, John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Laurens, and Thomas Jefferson. Item 86, Letters From the Joint Commissioners for the Formation of Treaties of Amity and Commerce, With Plans of Treaties in the French and Italian Languages, 1784-86, consists of despatches received from Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, who were instructed to negotiate treaties with representatives of several governments in Europe.

Item 87, Letters From Thomas Jefferson, 1785-89

Roll

- 115 Letters addressed mainly to John Jay. With them are many enclosures, such as letters from Thomas Barclay, John Lamb, William Carmichael, John Paul Jones, and Count de Bernstorff, and copies of speeches and other documents relating to the political crisis in Europe.

Item 88, Letters From William Carmichael, 1776-91

Roll

- 116 Letters, most of which were written while Carmichael was secretary to the Minister to Spain and later Chargé d'Affaires in Spain.

Item 89, Letters From Ralph Izard and Others, 1777-84

Roll

- 117 Letters from Ralph Izard, 1777-80, from Paris; from Henry Laurens, 1778-84, Commissioner for negotiating a treaty of amity and commerce with the United

Netherlands and member of the Joint Commission for Negotiating a Treaty of Peace With Great Britain; from John Jay, 1781-84, Minister Plenipotentiary to Spain and member of the Joint Commission to negotiate with Great Britain; and from Francis W. Dana, 1780-83, Secretary of Legation in Great Britain and unrecognized Minister to Russia. Most of Dana's letters relate to his unsuccessful mission to Russia.

Item 90, Letters From William Bingham and Others, 1777-82

Roll

118 Despatches, with some enclosures: (1) from the Continental agents for the West Indies at St. Pierre, Martinique, 1777-81; William Bingham; Parsons, Alston & Co.; and Samuel Parsons; (2) from William Lee, 1777-79, Commissioner for negotiating a treaty of amity and commerce with the Courts of Berlin and Vienna; and (3) from Jonathan Williams, 1777-80, American despatch agent at Nantes, France.

Item 91, Letters From Thomas Barclay and John Lamb, 1782-88

Roll

119 The Barclay letters are addressed chiefly to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and to John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, Commissioners in Europe. Barclay was consul and consul general in France, Commissioner for the settlement of the U.S. accounts in Europe, and agent to negotiate a treaty of amity and commerce with Morocco. The letters from John Lamb concern his unsuccessful negotiation of a treaty of amity and commerce with Algiers.

Item 92, Letters From William S. Smith and Others, 1779-89

Roll

120 Letters from William S. Smith, Secretary of Legation in Great Britain; from Richard Harrison, commercial agent at Cadiz, Spain; from John Bondfield, commercial agent at Bordeaux, France; from Joseph Gardoqui and Sons, agent at Bilbao, Spain; and from Sir John Temple, British consul general in the United States.

Item 93, Letters From Charles W. F. Dumas, 1776-96

Letters relating to Dumas' activities as a U.S. agent, secretary to John Adams, and Acting Chargé d'Affaires in the United Netherlands.

Items 94-100

Roll

- 121 Vols. I-II, 1776-84
122 Vols. III-IV, 1784-96

Items 94-95, Letters From Ministers of France in the United States, 1778-84

Roll

- 123 Item 94, Letters From Sieur Conrad Alexandre Gerard, 1778-79, and Item 95, Letters From the Chevalier Anne C. de la Luzerne, 1779-84.

Item 96, Letters From Holker, Barbé-Marbois, Forest, and Moustier, 1778-90

Roll

- 124 Letters, with enclosures, from diplomatic and consular representatives of France in the United States.

Items 97-98, Letters and Papers Relating to Spain and to the Barbary Powers, 1779-95

Roll

- 125 Item 97, Letters From Don Diego de Gardoqui, Encargado de Negocios From Spain, 1785-89, and Other Letters Pertaining to Relations With Spain, 1780-87. Item 98, Papers Relative to the Barbary Powers, 1779-92, 1795, includes documents pertaining to the negotiation of a treaty of amity and commerce with Morocco and the release of American seamen captured by Barbary pirates.

Item 99, Letters From Pieter Johan van Berckel, 1783-88, and Franco Petrus van Berckel, 1789-96

Roll

- 126 Letters, or "notes," with enclosures, received from these Ministers who represented the United Provinces of the Netherlands in the United States.

Items 100-101, Transcripts of Letters From Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Others, 1776-88

Roll

- 127 Item 100, Transcripts of Letters From Benjamin Franklin, 1776-85 and 1788, contains copies of letters, with enclosures, addressed chiefly to the President of Congress and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Many of the originals are in Items 82 and 85. Included are a copy of the Journal of Negotiations for Peace With Great Britain and an appendix consisting of papers not specifically mentioned in

Franklin's letters but presumably transmitted by him as enclosures. Item 101, Transcripts of Letters Addressed to Charles Dumas From John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Others, 1780-83, contains copies of letters received mostly from Adams and Franklin.

Item 102, Transcripts of Letters From Arthur Lee, William Lee, Ralph Izard, and the Joint Commissioners of the United States to France, 1776-80

Roll

128 Copies of letters, with enclosures, many of the originals of which are in Items 83, 85, 89, and 90.

Item 103, Transcripts of Letters From Silas Deane and Arthur Lee, 1776-79

Roll

129 Copies of letters, with enclosures, from two members of the Joint Commission of the United States to France. Also included is an appendix containing copies of letters relating to the dispute between Arthur Lee and Silas Deane over the settlement of some accounts in France by Deane.

Item 104, Transcripts of Letters From John Adams, 1777-88

Copies chiefly of letters and enclosures in Item 84.

Roll

130 Dec. 23, 1777-Feb. 19, 1782 (vols. 1-3)

131 Feb. 21, 1782-Oct. 11, 1788 (vols. 4-6)

Items 105-106, 1777-83

Roll

132 Item 105, Transcripts of Letters From the Joint Commissioners of the United States to France From William Lee and From Ralph Izard, 1777-80, consists chiefly of copies of letters and enclosures in Items 85, 89, and 90. Item 106, Transcripts of Letters From the Joint Commissioners for Negotiating a Treaty of Peace With Great Britain, 1782-83, consists chiefly of copies of a few letters and enclosures in Item 85.

Item 107, Transcripts of Letters From Thomas Jefferson, 1785-87

Roll

133 Copies chiefly of letters and enclosures in Item 87.

Items 108-117

Items 108-109, 1776-84

Roll

- 134 Item 108, Transcripts of Letters From William Carmichael, 1776-83, consists chiefly of copies of letters and enclosures in Item 88. Item 109, Transcripts of Letters From Francis Dana, Henry Laurens, and John Laurens, 1780-84, consists chiefly of copies of letters and enclosures in Items 89 and 165.

Item 110, Transcripts of Letters From John Jay, 1779-84

Roll

- 135 Copies chiefly of letters and enclosures in Item 89, but including copies of letters for the years 1779, 1780, and 1782 that are missing from the original communications.

Items 111-114, Transcripts of Letters From Sieur Conrad Alexandre Gerard and the Chevalier Anne C. de la Luzerne, 1779-83

Roll

- 136 Copies chiefly of letters and enclosures in Items 94 and 95, with copies of resolutions by Congress and committee reports relating to the letters.

Items 115-115B, Transcripts and Duplicates of Letters From Charles W. F. Dumas, 1776-89

Roll

- 137 Copies, duplicates signed by Dumas, and English translations, chiefly of letters in Item 93.

Items 116-117, 1783-85

Roll

- 138 Item 116, Letter Book of the Joint Commissioners for the Formation of Treaties of Amity and Commerce, 1783-85, was kept by David Humphreys, secretary to Joint Commissioners John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. It contains minutes of the proceedings of the Joint Commissioners, copies of their correspondence with representatives of foreign powers and of proposed treaties, and copies of periodic reports to the Confederation Congress. The originals of some of the letters are in Item 86. Item 117, Transcripts of Instructions to Thomas Barclay and John Lamb, 1785, contains copies of letters sent to these two men appointed by the Joint Commissioners to negotiate treaties with Morocco and Algiers.

Items 118-119, Transcripts of the Foreign and Domestic Letters of Robert R. Livingston, 1781-83

Roll

- 139 Item 118, Transcripts of the Foreign Letters, consists of copies of letters sent by Livingston, chiefly to U.S. diplomatic and consular representatives abroad and to such persons as the French Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Marquis de Lafayette. Item 119, Transcripts of the Domestic Letters, consists mainly of copies of letters sent by Livingston to the President of the Confederation Congress (originals of many of these are in Item 79), the Governors of States, the Minister from France, and also to such persons as Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Major General Greene. There are a few copies of letters received by Livingston.

Item 120, "American Letters," 1784-92

Copies of letters sent to persons within the United States, and notes from and copies of notes to diplomatic and consular representatives in this country. These records are not reproduced in this microfilm publication. They are part of General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, and are reproduced on rolls 1-4 of M40, Domestic Letters of the Department of State, 1784-1861.

Item 121, "Foreign Letters," 1785-90

Copies of instructions sent to diplomatic and consular representatives of the Confederation Congress and the United States. This series is the successor to Items 79 and 118. The sequence of instructions is broken only by a gap between June 1783 and Dec. 1784, when the instructions were not maintained in a separate file. For that period the instructions were issued by the Presidents of the Confederation Congress and they are included in Item 16, Letter Book of the Presidents of Congress, 1781-87. The records in Item 121 are not reproduced in this microfilm publication. They are part of General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, and are reproduced as M61, Foreign Letters of the Continental Congress and the Department of State, 1785-90.

Items 122-123, Resolve Books, 1785-89

Roll

- 140 Item 122, Resolve Book of the Office of Foreign Affairs, 1785-89, consists mainly of copies of orders and resolutions by the Confederation Congress with a few by the Senate of the First Federal Congress. Included are printed copies of "An Ordinance for the

Items 123-130

Regulation of Indian Affairs," 1786; of "An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States North West of the River Ohio," 1787; of the Constitution; and of the acts establishing the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of State. Item 123, Sundry Motions and Resolves of Congress, 1785-86 and 1788, contains unsigned copies of orders and resolutions by the Confederation Congress on letters, motions, and reports submitted to the Congress by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Board of Treasury, committees and Members of the Congress, and other officials. This volume supplements Item 1, the Rough Journals of the Continental Congress.

Item 124, Transcripts of the Reports of John Jay, 1785-89

Roll

141 Copies of reports in Item 81 and of a few reports of Robert R. Livingston, 1782-83, in Item 79.

Items 125-127, 1781-90

Roll

142 Item 125, Transcripts of the Correspondence Between John Jay and Don Diego de Gardoqui, and Sundry Acts and Proceedings of Congress Pertaining to the Negotiations, 1785-89, includes copies of reports to the Confederation Congress by Jay and letters from military and other officials. Item 126, Daily Journal or Despatch Book of the Office of Foreign Affairs, 1781-83, contains entries for letters and enclosures that were received and sent, and for letters that were referred to and from the Confederation Congress by the Office of Foreign Affairs. There also are occasional abstracts of letters and copies of resolutions of Congress pertaining to the Office of Foreign Affairs. Item 127, Daily Journals or Despatch Books of the Office of Foreign Affairs, 1784-90, contains entries for correspondence and for reports by the Secretary to Congress, and lists of documents loaned and returned by other officials.

Items 128-131, 1778-1821

Roll

143 Item 128, Copies of the Commissions of Foreign Consuls, 1778-87. Other copies of these commissions are in Item 129. Item 129, Copies of Commissions and Letters of Credence of Foreign Ministers and Consuls, 1778-1821. Item 130, Copies of Applications for Passports or Sea Letters, 1788-93, contains

applications to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs by U.S. shipowners. Also included are a copy of the resolution of Congress authorizing the Secretary for Foreign Affairs to grant sea letters and two drafts showing the form to be used before and after the establishment of the Federal Government. Item 131, Copies of Bonds Required by Commissioners Appointed to the Board of Treasury, 1785 and 1787, contains copies of the bonds of Samuel Osgood, Walter Livingston, and Arthur Lee, and a copy of the resolution of Congress, dated May 28, 1784, authorizing the establishment of a Board of Treasury.

Items 132-135, 1775-88

Roll

- 144 Item 132, Transcripts of the Letters From John Paul Jones, 1778-80, consists of letters sent by Jones, among them several to Benjamin Franklin, and copies of letters received by Jones from Franklin and others. Item 133, Letter Book of the Executive Committee of the Second Continental Congress, 1776-77, contains copies of letters written by George Clymer, Robert Morris, and George Walton, chiefly to John Hancock but also to General Washington and other officials. Item 134, Proceedings of the Commissioners Appointed by the Second Continental Congress to Negotiate a Treaty With the Six Nations of Indians, 1775, contains a record of conversations held at German Flatts and Albany, N.Y., between Commissioners Volkert P. Douw, Turbot Francis, Philip Schuyler, and Oliver Wolcott, and the Cayugas, Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Senecas, and Tuscaroras. Item 135, A Record of Foreign Treaties and Contracts, 1778-88, contains copies of treaties and contracts between the United States and foreign governments, private European merchants, and several Indian tribes in America. Originals and other copies of many of these contracts are in Item 145.

Item 136, Reports of the Board of Treasury, 1776-81

Reports on the operations of the Treasury, many of which contain decisions of Treasury officials on the disbursement of public funds for the pay of troops, supplies, salaries of public officials, settlement of claims for goods and services, and other expenditures.

Roll

- 145 1776-78 (vols. I-II)
Includes reports on the operation and organization of Treasury offices; methods of handling disbursements in the Army; plans for printing lottery

Item 137

Roll

notes and for issuing Continental notes; and a proposal for organizing a new Board of Treasury. There is also testimony concerning funds stolen from James Warren, paymaster at Cambridge.

146 1779 (vols. III)

Includes reports on withdrawing Continental notes to stabilize the economy and stop inflation; borrowing \$40 million at 6 percent; reorganizing the Treasury and establishing a Board of Treasury; and altering the manner of keeping the accounts of the Army. One report contains enclosures listing the amounts of money issued by Congress until Sept. 10, 1779, and the money received at the several State loan offices until Feb. 28, 1778.

147 1780-81 (vols. IV-V)

Includes reports on an authorization for George Washington to arrange an exchange of prisoners with the commander in chief of the British Forces; money owed Francis Hopkinson; the need to fix the rate of exchange of the inflationary Continental notes with that of specie; and a plan for regulating the business of the Treasury, with a copy of the ordinance passed by the Confederation Congress on Sept. 11, 1781, which completely revised the organization and operation of the Treasury. With a report on the accounts of Benedict Arnold, most of which relate to his expedition to Canada in 1776, are copies of his letters, testimony, and vouchers for stores lost on the brigantine Peggy. There also is a list of the balances due the United States by the individual States for their quotas of the Continental tax, Jan. 1778-Feb. 1780.

Item 137, Letters and Reports From Robert Morris, Superintendent of Finance and Agent of Marine, 1781-85, With an Appendix, 1776-78 and 1781-86

Letters and reports from Morris as Superintendent of Finance relate to such matters as the adjustment of accounts between the individual States and the Continental and Confederation Governments, and the foreign debt of the United States. Letters and reports relating to his duties as Agent of Marine concern such matters as the purchase, sale, and outfitting of ships.

Roll

148 Mar. 13, 1781-Oct. 23, 1782 (vol. I)

Includes letters and reports concerning the administration of the Office of Finance; a plan for establishing a bank of the United States; the raising of revenue by the States; and contracts for rations

- and supplies for the Army.
- 149 Nov. 14, 1782-Aug. 12, 1783 (vol. II)
Includes letters and reports relating to claims against the Government and to the condition of the public finances of the United States; a list of U.S. officers serving in the Southern Department of the Army who were captured by the British; and a plan for establishing a mint.
- 150 Aug. 26, 1783-Mar. 7, 1785 (vol. III), and an appendix
Includes letters and reports relating to the status of payments on tax quotas assigned to the States by Congress, receipts and expenditures of the Government, and the settlement of claims against the United States by Americans and Canadians. The appendix volume contains letters addressed chiefly to the President of Congress by George Clymer, Robert Morris, and George Walton, who were appointed as a committee to conduct the business of the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia after Congress left for Baltimore in Dec. 1776. It also contains letters, with enclosures, that were written by Morris during his service on the Marine Committee, 1776-78; as Superintendent of Finance and Agent of Marine, 1781-84; and in an unofficial capacity, 1785-86.

Item 138, Reports of the Board of Treasury, 1784-88Roll

- 151 Reports containing recommendations on the disbursement of public funds for salaries and supplies, debts incurred by the Army during the war, the settlement of claims for goods and services, and other expenditures of the Confederation Congress. Many of the reports relate to memorials and petitions regarding financial affairs that had been referred by the Congress.

Item 139, Reports of the Board of Treasury on Applications From the States and Various Other Subjects, 1785-89Roll

- 152 Chiefly reports containing recommendations on motions and letters referred to the Board, relating to such matters as procedures for settling accounts between the United States and the States and inquiries concerning the accounts and operations of the State loan offices. Included are reports relating to the establishment of a mint, receipts and expenditures of the United States for the year 1784, a system for settling the accounts of the five departments of the Government, expenses resulting from the

Items 140-143

negotiation of Indian treaties and the allowances to Indian Commissioners of the Northern Department, and a plan for selling the public lands.

Item 140, Letters of the Board of Treasury, 1785-88

Roll

- 153 Mainly letters transmitting Treasury reports in Items 138 and 139 and monthly and quarterly accounts of receipts and expenditures in Item 141, but also letters transmitting copies of correspondence concerning the foreign debt and letters transmitting originals or copies of letters from the Commissioners of Public Accounts and of Loan Offices of several States relating to such matters as adjusting accounts between the United States and the States; the passage of State laws making paper money legal tender for payment on requisitions rather than specie as required by the Confederation Congress; and the refusal of Abraham Yates, Commissioner of the Loan Office in New York, to take the oath of office.

Item 141, Estimates and Statements of Receipts and Expenditures, 1780-88

Roll

- 154 Quarterly statements of accounts for Treasury receipts and expenditures, 1784-87, signed by the Register of the Treasury, with a few earlier documents containing estimates on the cost of maintaining the Army and its several departments. Also included are statements of arrears and payments of interest on foreign loans; specie taxes received from the States; expenditures of the Military and Marine Departments; and annual estimates of funds needed for the civil departments and the War Department.

Items 142-143, 1781-88

Roll

- 155 Item 142, Accounts of the Register's Office, 1781-83, contains accounts (domestic and foreign) copied from the Treasury books by Joseph Nourse, Register of the Treasury, and used by the Committee on the Treasury appointed by Congress to inquire into the proceedings of the Department of Finance. The report of the committee is in Item 19. Item 143, Papers Respecting Unsettled Accounts, 1788, and Returns of Stores, 1783-84, consists of two sets of papers used by the Committee on the Treasury in preparing its report on the operations of the Board

of Treasury, 1784-88. The report is in Item 26.

Items 144-146, 1779-90

Roll

- 156 Item 144, Estimates and Other Papers Relating to the Treasury, 1780-88, includes papers relating to the Grand Committee appointed by Congress to consider the national debt. Among them are a report of the committee in the handwriting of Thomas Jefferson and a report on the ceding of western lands by the States to the United States. Item 145, Letters and Papers of Bankers in Holland and Contracts for Loans, 1779-90, includes papers relating to loans from France as well as from Holland. Item 146, Register of Incidental Accounts, 1785-89, is a volume used by Charles Thomson, Secretary of Congress, for recording office expenses.

Item 147, Reports of the Board of War and Ordnance, 1776-81

These concern such matters as the recruitment, training, and disposition of troops; the commissioning and promotion of officers; the procurement and distribution of arms, ammunition, clothing, and other military stores; the defense of frontier settlements against Indian attacks; the treatment of prisoners of war; and problems relating to the supervision of departments of the Army.

Roll

- 157 Aug. 1776-Dec. 1779 (vols. I-II)
158 Jan. 5-Sept. 1, 1779 (vol. III)
159 Dec. 1779-Dec. 1780 (vol. IV)
160 Dec. 29, 1780-June 7, 1781 (vols. V-VI)

Item 148, Letters From the Board of War and Ordnance, 1780-81

Roll

- 161 Letters to Congress relating to military supplies and equipment, and reports similar to those in Item 147.

Item 149, Letters and Reports From Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, Secretary at War, 1781-83

These concern matters on which the Secretary had been asked to report or on which he needed the advice or approval of the Confederation Congress. They relate to such administrative matters as the moving of troops; compensating and promoting officers; providing quarters for prisoners of war; filling quotas for the main Army; procuring uniforms, ammunition, and provisions for the Southern Army; the disbandment of the Invalid Corps; and negotiations concerning the

Items 150-153

end of hostilities. Included are a few reports of committees of the Congress appointed to consider Lincoln's reports and a few resolutions of the Congress.

Roll

- 162 Nov. 1781-Oct. 1782 (vol. I)
- 163 Oct. 1782-Nov. 1783 (vols. II-III)

Items 150-151, Letters and Reports From Maj. Gen. Henry Knox, Secretary at War, 1785-88

Item 150 consists of letters containing or transmitting information to or requesting advice from the Confederation Congress. The letters transmitted copies of correspondence with Richard Butler, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern Department; Brig. Gen. Josiah Harmar, commander of the troops on the frontiers; Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Northwest Territory; and officers stationed in the Ohio Valley. Item 151 consists of reports relating to military administration, negotiations with the Indians, the distribution of land in the Ohio Valley to Revolutionary War veterans, court-martial procedures, and other subjects. The reports also contain recommendations on memorials and petitions.

Roll

- 164 Letters, Apr. 1785-Oct. 1787 (vols. I-II)
- 165 Letters, Nov. 1787-July 1788 (vol. III), and
Reports, 1785-88

Item 152, Letters From Gen. George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Army, 1775-84

Letters, many with enclosures, by which Washington informed Congress of important military happenings and problems. Most of the letters were signed by Washington after having been dictated by him or written at his order by his secretary or aides, but some letters are entirely in his handwriting.

Roll

- 166 June 16, 1775-Sept. 18, 1776 (vols. I-II)
- 167 Sept. 19, 1776-Aug. 27, 1777 (vols. III-IV)
- 168 Aug. 28, 1777-Dec. 13, 1778 (vols. V-VI)
- 169 Dec. 16, 1778-Sept. 12, 1779 (vol. VII)
- 170 Sept. 13, 1779-Feb. 17, 1781 (vols. VIII-IX)
- 171 Feb. 26, 1781-Jan. 19, 1784 (vols. X-XI)

Item 153, Letters From Maj. Gen. Philip Schuyler, 1775-85

The letters through Aug. 1777 pertain to Schuyler's duties as commanding general of the Northern Department of the Army.

They concern the American offensive into Canada, 1775-76, Schuyler's plans for reinforcing Fort Ticonderoga after the retreat of the American Army from Canada, intelligence about the British and their Indian allies in Canada, and the court-martial and subsequent acquittal of Schuyler. Letters from Generals Arnold, Gates, and Montgomery and other officers under his command appear as enclosures. Letters after Aug. 1777 relate chiefly to Schuyler's services as a commissioner for Indian affairs.

Roll

- 172 June 1775-Dec. 1776 (vols. I-II)
173 Jan. 1777-June 1785 (vol. III)

Item 154, Letters From Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates, 1775-82

Roll

- 174 These relate to his duties as commander of the Northern Department of the Army, member of the Board of War, commander of the Continental forces in the "eastern District," and commander of the Southern Department of the Army. Included are letters on preparations to repel a new enemy offensive from Canada; the defeat of the British forces at Bennington and Bemis Heights and the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga; the so-called "Conway Cabal" and the rumored plot to supplant Washington with Gates as commander of the Continental Army; defense against Indian attacks and Tory activities; Gates' proposals for fortifying Boston and its harbor; the defeat of the Southern Army under Gates by Cornwallis at Camden, S.C., and the proposed investigation of the defeat; and the later repeal by Congress of the resolution directing such investigation.

Item 155, Letters From Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene, 1776-85

Roll

- 175 Letters written through Oct. 1780 pertain mostly to Greene's duties as Quartermaster General and show the difficulties in supplying the needs of the Continental Army. Among the enclosures is a copy of a letter from Alexander Hamilton concerning the treason of Gen. Benedict Arnold and the capture of Maj. John André. Letters written after Oct. 1780 pertain to Greene's duties as commanding general of the Southern Department of the Army, including his efforts to organize that Army, to improve the local militia, and to gather enemy intelligence. Among the enclosures are copies of correspondence with Lord Cornwallis about the ending of hostilities and copies of documents relating to the execution of

Items 156-157

Col. Isaac Hayne. Some of the letters dated after the end of the Revolutionary War are concerned with settling Greene's accounts.

Item 156, Letters From Generals Lafayette and Coudray, 1777-87

Roll

176 Most of the letters written by General Lafayette while he was in the United States concern his participation in the war. One letter and its enclosures concern the possibility of invading the British West Indies and dividing the islands between France and the United States. Among the enclosures are copies of correspondence with Lord Cornwallis; reports of Americans killed, wounded, or missing in battle; a list of the French officers who accompanied Monsieur du Coudray from France; and a copy of the Second Continental Congress' instructions to Lafayette, with additional instructions from Gen. Horatio Gates, for leading an expedition to Canada, 1778. The letters written by Lafayette while he was in France chiefly concern his efforts to stimulate interest in the American cause. Some concern American and Spanish relations and express his views on the navigation rights of the Mississippi River. Others report the impending war between Russia and Turkey, the Austrian-Dutch dispute, the quality of the Prussian Army, the preparations by England apparently for an attack on Gibraltar, the plans by France and Spain for a possible invasion of England, the change of ministry in England, and some of the problems of French finances. The letters from Monsieur du Coudray, Jan.-Sept. 1777, concern the agreement he made with Silas Deane in France to come to America with a corps of French commissioned and noncommissioned officers to assist the Continental Army.

Items 157-162, Letters From General Officers, 1775-89

Roll

177 Item 157 contains letters from Maj. Gen. William Heath, 1775-83, relating to his duties as commander of the Eastern Department of the Army and as a field commander in the Northern Department. They concern such matters as the procurement of military provisions for the Eastern Department and of food and other necessities for the "convention troops" of Burgoyne, who surrendered at Saratoga. Among the enclosures are letters received by Heath from subordinate officers; copies of petitions received by New Hampshire from Canadians compelled to serve with the British Forces and later captured by American troops; a few reports of troops, including one of

British prisoners captured at Fort Slongo, Long Island, together with a sketch of the fort; and a list of about 140 claimants of Westchester County, N.Y., to compensation for forage supplied to the Continental Army. Item 158 consists of letters and enclosures from officers as follows: (1) Maj. Gen. Charles Lee, Jan. 22, 1776-Oct. 8, 1780, on such matters as the fortification of New York City, his service as commander of the Southern Department of the Army, the Battle of Sullivan's Island, the proposed exchange of Lee after his capture by the British, his conduct at the Battle of Monmouth, and congressional confirmation of his conviction by court-martial. (2) Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, Mar. 4, 1777-July 24, 1780, on such matters as military forays in Georgia, the unsuccessful attack on Savannah by American and French forces, and the British attack on Charleston, S.C., which ended in the capitulation of Lincoln and the Southern Army. (3) Brig. Gen. William Moultrie, Apr. 20, 1778-Feb. 21, 1782, on his service as a commander in the Southern Army, his capture by the British at Charleston, S.C., and his attempt to obtain aid for American troops held prisoner by the British.

- 178 Item 159 consists of letters, with enclosures, from officers as follows: (1) Maj. Gen. Israel Putnam, Apr. 4, 1776-June 30, 1778, on such matters as the defenses of New York City, intelligence concerning enemy movements in the New York and New Jersey areas, and the court of inquiry on Putnam's conduct concerning the loss of Forts Clinton and Montgomery. (2) Brig. Gen. Hugh Mercer, June 15-Nov. 28, 1776, on such matters as the military situation in New Jersey, intelligence concerning enemy movements in the New Jersey and New York areas, and an American attack on Staten Island. (3) Brig. Gen. Andrew Lewis, Apr. 6, 1776-Mar. 21, 1777, relating chiefly to detaching troops from his command at Williamsburg, Va., and sending them to the Northern Army. (4) Brig. Gen. William Thompson, Mar. 23, 1776-May 8, 1781, concerning an inquiry by the Second Continental Congress into Thompson's charges in connection with his exchange as a prisoner of war. (5) Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward, June 4, 1775-Nov. 22, 1776, relating mainly to the need for troops and supplies in Massachusetts. (6) Brig. Gen. George Weedon, Dec. 29, 1777-June 30, 1780, requesting a promotion. (7) Brig. Gen. Edward Hand, May 3, 1776-Oct. 18, 1778, on his command at Fort Pitt and the defense of the frontier against Indian attacks. (8) Brig. Gen. Thomas Conway, June 6, 1777-Nov. 9, 1778, protesting against his not being promoted as the French officers were.

Items 160-162

Item 160 consists of letters, with enclosures, from officers as follows: (1) Maj. Gen. John Sullivan, June 1, 1776-Nov. 9, 1779, on such matters as his command of the Canadian expedition that ended in the American retreat from Canada, the court of inquiry concerning the defeat of his troops at Staten Island, the American campaign in Rhode Island, and his expedition against the Indians on the western frontier. (2) Maj. Gen. Robert Howe, Mar. 17, 1776-Feb. 15, 1782, and Mar. 10-Oct. 27, 1785, on his command in the Southern Department of the Army, including the procurement of troops and supplies and plans for defending Charleston, S.C., and the State of Georgia against enemy invasions from Florida. Among the enclosures is a plan of a hospital for the Southern Department.

Roll

179 Item 161 consists of letters, with enclosures, from officers as follows: (1) Maj. Gen. Thomas Mifflin, Nov. 10, 1776-Jan. 18, 1780, relating mainly to the settlement of his accounts as Quartermaster General. (2) Maj. Gen. Alexander McDougall, Jan. 15, 1776-Apr. 21, 1781, on such matters as the need for provisions and forage for American troops defending the Hudson River and compensation due officers and soldiers because of currency depreciation. (3) Brig. Gen. William Smallwood, Jan. 17-Apr. 17, 1778, and June 5, 1782, on his command at Wilmington, Del., particularly the treatment of some prisoners, the capture of the brig Symetry, and insurrection in the area. (4) Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne, Feb. 17, 1776-Mar. 19, 1781, on the military situation at Fort Ticonderoga and his services in the White Plains area. (5) Brig. Gen. David Wooster, July 22, 1775-Dec. 8, 1776, on his part in the 1776 invasion of Canada. (6) Brig. Gen. Samuel Parsons, Dec. 2, 1777-Aug. 30, 1779, on his services as a commander in New York. (7) Maj. Gen. Joseph Spencer, Nov. 6 and Dec. 20, 1777, on the need of provisions for troops in Rhode Island. (8) Brig. Gen. Richard Montgomery, Sept. 19-Dec. 16, 1775, on his services as commander of the expedition to Canada in 1775. (9) Maj. Gen. Arthur St. Clair, Jan. 27, 1776-Nov. 26, 1781, and Jan. 1, 1783, on his command of Fort Ticonderoga in 1776 and 1777. Item 162 consists of letters, with enclosures, from officers as follows: (1) Maj. Gen. Benedict Arnold, May 3, 1775-July 17, 1780, on such matters as the invasion of Canada and the failure to capture Quebec, General Arnold's command at Philadelphia, the inquiry into his court-martial, and the settlement of his

accounts. Among the enclosures is a copy of a journal kept by Arnold during his advance on Quebec. (2) Brig. Gen. John Stark, May 24 and Oct. 22, 1778, and Apr. 9, 1781, on payment for outfitting the expedition against Fort St. John, Colonel Butler's destruction of certain Indian villages used as headquarters for Indian and Tory attacks on frontier settlements, and adjustment for depreciation in pay. (3) Brig. Gen. Adam Stephen, Nov. 8, 1776-Dec. 6, 1777, on enemy movements and charges of misconduct made against Stephen. (4) Brig. Gen. John Armstrong, Mar. 2, 1776-June 1778, on the military situation in the Carolinas, the recruitment of troops and the location of military depots in Pennsylvania, and a proposed expedition against Detroit. (5) Brig. Gen. Lachlan McIntosh, Jan. 6, 1778-Sept. 21, 1781, and Nov. 1, 1783, on the disposition of troops at frontier posts and the procurement of provisions, and charges made against him by officials in Georgia. (6) Maj. Gen. William Alexander, Lord Stirling, Dec. 3, 1775-Oct. 17, 1779, on the recruitment and disposition of troops in New Jersey, the strengthening of the defenses of New York City, enemy movements in the New Jersey and New York areas, and the successful attack on Paulus Hook.

Item 163, Letters From General and Other Officers, 1776-89

Roll

180

These letters, with enclosures, are from the following officers: (1) Brig. Gen. James Clinton, Aug. 9, 1778-Oct. 2, 1779, recommending the appointment of John Gano as chaplain and an increase in pay for Rev. S. Kirkland, Indian agent. (2) Brig. Gen. John Nixon, Aug. 7, 1778, recommending the appointment of Rev. Hezekiah Smith as chaplain. (3) Col. Lewis Nicola, Oct. 2, 1777-July 29, 1782, reporting much military information obtained from deserters of the British Armed Forces. (4) Gen. George Morgan, Apr. 22, 1776-May 12, 1784, on such matters as messages from chiefs of the Shawnee and Delaware Indians declaring their desire for peace, the plan for an expedition from western Pennsylvania and Virginia against the Mingo Indians, the severing of communications with all Indian nations after an attack on Fort Henry at Wheeling, the purchase of lands west of the Ohio from the Indians, and the policy and the conduct of the commissioners toward the Indians. (5) Brig. Gen. Josiah Harmar, June 24, 1779, and Feb. 21, 1784-Mar. 4, 1789, on the actions of Ens. John Armstrong, under instructions to dispossess settlers from lands west of the Ohio.

Item 164

(6) Lt. David Luckett, May 28, 1785, on a claim by Craig, Bayard & Co., to the land and buildings at Fort Pitt. (7) Brig. Gen. Peter Muhlenberg, two letters, one dated July 19, 1777, recommending that the Reverend Christian be appointed chaplain, and the second one, undated, presenting his claim that he should rank above General Woodford. (8) Brig. Gens. Enoch Poor and John Paterson, Dec. 21, 1777, and Feb. 2, 1778, on their defense against charges resulting from the evacuation of Fort Ticonderoga. (9) Col. Samuel Patterson, Apr. 15, 1778, reporting insurrectionary activities of Tories on Jordan's Island at the head of the Chester River.

Item 164, Letters From General Officers and the Count d'Estaing, 1777-86

Roll

181 These letters, with enclosures, are from the following officers serving in the Continental Army, and from Count d'Estaing, vice admiral of the French fleet: (1) Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski, Mar. 28, 1778-Aug. 19, 1779, on his offer to serve in the American Army, his assignments, and the command of his corps in New Jersey. (2) Maj. Gen. Baron von Steuben, Sept. 3, 1777-May 3, 1785, and Aug. 25, 1789, on such subjects as his proposals for reorganizing the Army, a report on the enemy's movements in Virginia, the disposition of the Army for an attack on Portsmouth, Va., and his claim against the United States. (3) Maj. Gen. Baron Johann de Kalb, Aug. 1, 1777-Sept. 11, 1779, on such subjects as De Kalb's requests for appointments for himself and other French officers. (4) Maj. Gen. Louis Le Bègue du Portail, Dec. 2, 1778-Nov. 23, 1781, on such subjects as the defenses of West Point, the problems of the Corps of Engineers and his appointment as its commandant, and the surrender of Charleston to the British. (5) Brig. Gen. Charles Armand, the Marquis de la Rouerie, Dec. 28, 1777-Jan. 18, 1786, on such subjects as his views on the American Government, his request for promotion, enlarging and reorganizing his corps, and his claim against the United States for his corps and himself. (6) Brig. Gen. Ethan Allen, Mar. 9, 1781, transmitting copies of two letters from Bev. Robinson, pleading the loyalist cause and asking for Allen's support. (7) Count Charles d'Estaing, vice admiral commanding the French fleet sent to aid the Americans, July 8-Sept. 29, 1778, on such subjects as signals of recognition between American and French vessels and his differences with General Sullivan

over the Newport expedition.

Item 165, Letters From Colonels, 1776-83

Roll

- 182 These letters and enclosures are from officers as follows: (1) Lt. Col. John Laurens, July 18, 1778-Feb. 12, 1782, chiefly on his mission as Special Minister to France to obtain additional financial aid and supplies. (2) Col. Ephraim Blaine, July 12, 1776-May 10, 1781, chiefly on his duties as Commissary General of Purchases and the operations of the Commissary General's Department. (3) Col. William Palfrey, May 4, 1776-Dec. 6, 1780, on his duties as Paymaster General. (4) Col. John Pierce, Jan. 8, 1780-Dec. 15, 1783, on his duties as Deputy Paymaster General and Paymaster General.

Item 166, Letters and Papers Relating to Canadian Affairs, Sullivan's Expedition, and the Northern Indians, 1775-79

Roll

- 183 Among the letters and other records relating to Canadian affairs are a report dated Nov. 1775 of the committee appointed by the Second Continental Congress to confer with General Schuyler at Fort Ticonderoga; letters received by the Congress from a committee sent to Canada to report on affairs in that area, May 1776; and documents relating to a proposed expedition to Canada in 1778 to be led by General Lafayette. The documents concerning Gen. John Sullivan's expedition in 1779 are mainly copies and extracts of the correspondence of Generals Washington, Hand, Schuyler, and Sullivan about preparations to attack Indians harassing American settlers on the frontier. The letters and records pertaining to the northern Indians, 1776-79, concern negotiations.

Item 167, Letters and Documents Relative to Exchange of Officers, Narration of a Journey to the Western Country, and Other Documents, 1777-88

Roll

- 184 Among the letters and other documents relating to the exchange of prisoners are declarations by British and American commissioners, 1778, concerning the "convention troops" captured by the Americans at Saratoga; minutes of the proceedings of the commissioners representing Generals Washington and Clinton at Amboy in 1780; and copies of correspondence of Abraham Skinner, American Commissary General of Prisoners, 1780. "A Short Narration of my Last

Items 168-172

Journey to the Western Country" is an undated account of the experiences of Hendrick Aupaumut, an Indian who tried to promote the cause of the United States with the Indians. The remainder of the documents relate to such varied subjects as prize vessels, counterfeiting of the Paymaster General's certificates, commerce with the West Indies, and the occupation of frontier posts evacuated by the British in compliance with the Treaty of Peace.

Item 168, Letters and Papers of John Paul Jones, 1777-91

Roll

- 185 Originals and copies of letters and related documents received and sent by Jones, a captain in the Continental Navy. There are letters to Jones from the Marine Committee of Congress containing instructions for naval operations against the British in European waters, and correspondence between Jones and Benjamin Franklin, the Joint Commissioners to France (Adams, Franklin, and Lee), and Jonathan Williams and John D. Schweighauser, American agents in France.

Item 169, Transcripts of Letters From George Washington, 1775-83

Copies chiefly of letters and enclosures in Item 152.

Roll

- 186 June 24, 1775-Aug. 28, 1777 (vols. 1-3)
187 Aug. 29, 1777-Dec. 30, 1779 (vols. 4-6)
188 Jan. 2, 1780-Dec. 21, 1783 (vols. 7-9)

Item 170, Transcripts of Letters From Maj. Gen. Philip Schuyler, 1775-81

Roll

- 189 Copies chiefly of letters and enclosures in Item 153. An appendix in Item 170 contains copies of Schuyler's correspondence with the military officers under his command, the Committee of Albany, and others.

Item 171, Transcripts of Letters From Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates, 1775-81

Roll

- 190 Copies chiefly of letters and enclosures in Item 154.

Item 172, Transcripts of Letters From Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene, 1780-83

Roll

- 191 Copies chiefly of letters and enclosures in Item 155.

Item 173, Letters of Nathanael Greene, With Various Papers
Relating to the Quartermaster's Department, 1778-80

These documents were apparently purchased by the Department of State in 1833 and added to the Papers of the Continental and Confederation Congresses. They seem not to be duplicated by other Items in the Papers that concern General Greene's service as Quartermaster General.

Roll

192 Vols. I-III

Vol. I consists chiefly of returns submitted to the Quartermaster General by deputies in his Department. Vol. II contains copies of letters, 1779, from Greene to his deputies and others concerning the activities of the Department. Vol. III contains reports submitted to Greene by his deputies and other officers at Army posts and in Army districts.

193 Vols. IV-V

Vol. IV consists chiefly of copies of letters, 1779, from Greene to his deputies and others concerning the activities of the Department. Vol. V consists chiefly of letters received, 1780.

Items 174-177, 1774-88

Roll

194 Four volumes of records presumably kept by the Secretary of Congress. Item 174, Copies of Indian Treaties, 1784-86, contains copies of six treaties signed by Commissioners of the United States and representatives of several Indian nations. Item 175, Copies of Ordinances of the Confederation Congress, 1781-88, contains copies signed by the President and attested by the Secretary of Congress. Item 176, Copies of Ordinances and Other Papers Relating to the Western Territory of the United States, 1787-88, includes, in addition to the Northwest Ordinance and an ordinance of July 9, 1788, for disposing of western lands, oaths of office of Territorial officials and copies of instructions, motions, resolutions, and committee reports of the Confederation Congress concerning the Northwest Territory. Item 177, Returns of Inhabitants of Various States, and Miscellaneous Papers, 1774-86, contains copies of tables showing the number of inhabitants in some of the States; estimates of the total number of square miles in the United States and the Western Territory and of the number of acres of water; and copies of passports and sea letters granted by Congress during the period 1779-83.

Items 178-184

Item 178, Abridged Resolves of Congress, 1777-86, With a Detached List of Abridged Resolves, 1775-76

Roll

- 195 In the list the abridged resolutions for 1775-76 are grouped under subjects as follows: Resolutions (general), Officers Appointed, and Committees. Each entry gives the date, the page number showing where the complete resolution appears in the Transcript (or Corrected) Journals (Item 2), and a brief statement of the subject matter. After the abridged resolutions are lists of general officers and of commissioners of loan offices, a record of public loans and money to be issued by the Second Continental Congress, and a few pay schedules for officers and men in the Continental Army and for certain public officials. The abridged resolutions, 1777-86, are arranged in chronological order.

Items 179-191, Record Books, Registers, and Indexes Kept by the Secretary of Congress, 1775-89

Roll

- 196 Item 179, Record of Credentials, 1781-89, contains copies of the credentials of the Delegates from the States to the Confederation Congress. Item 180, Reports of the Secretary of the Confederation Congress, 1785-88, is part of the record of the proceedings of the Congress; the reports are similar to those kept by the Committee of the Week, 1781-85, in Item 32. Item 181, Memorandum Book for 1783-85, lists the copies of official documents supplied by the Secretary to the Members, the committees, or the President of the Confederation Congress for distribution to the States or to agents of the Congress. A similar list for the period 1785-88 is in Item 187. Item 182, Form Book, contains copies of commissions issued, 1782-88, sea letters issued to captains of American vessels, public notices, and form letters to the States. Item 183 contains a register of letters and reports submitted by Robert Morris, Superintendent of Finance, Mar. 1781-Mar. 1785; a list of resolutions of the Second Continental Congress relating to prisoners of war, June 10, 1775-Jan. 13, 1780; and a list of American and foreign books apparently in the possession of Congress. Item 184 is a bound alphabetical index to the oaths of allegiance taken by officers in the Continental Army, Feb. 1778-Jan. 1789, and, after 1778, to oaths taken by civil officials.

Roll

- 197 Item 185, Despatch Books, 1779-89, contains several registers of letters, memorials, and petitions received and of reports from boards, offices, and committees; it also contains a list of expenditures by the Second Continental Congress for the year 1779. Item 186, Committee Book, 1781-85, contains a register of reports from boards, offices, and committees.
- 198 Item 187, a memorandum book, contains lists of documents supplied by the Secretary to Members, boards, offices, and committees of the Confederation Congress, 1785-88, similar to a list for 1783-85 in Item 181. It also contains a register of acts of the Federal Congress and communications received by the Department of State, 1790-95. Item 188 contains copies of reports from committees appointed to inquire into the proceedings of the Departments of Finance, Foreign Affairs, and Post Office, 1782-85. Items 189-191 contain registers of reports from boards, offices, and committees, 1781-88. Included in Item 190 is a list of persons nominated by Members of the Confederation Congress, Jan. 31, 1785-May 8, 1786, to governmental positions.

Item 192, Letters and Papers Relative to the Quartermaster's Department, 1777-84

Roll

- 199 Letters received by Congress, the Committee of Congress at Camp (dated early in 1778), and the President of Congress. Included are letters received from Timothy Pickering relating to his services as a member of the Board of War.

Items 193-194, 1778-82

Roll

- 200 Item 193, Correspondence of Capt. John Paul Jones, and Letters and Papers Relative to the Trials of Captain Landais and Lieutenant Degge, 1778-81, includes letters received, usually originals, and copies of letters sent by Jones. Among them is his correspondence with Benjamin Franklin, much of it relating to Jones' dispute with Capt. Peter Landais over the command of the Alliance. The papers relating to the courts-martial of Captain Landais and Lt. James Degge include the proceedings of the courts-martial and many documents submitted as evidence. Item 194, Copies of Letters and Papers Relative to the Trial of Capt. Richard Lippincott, 1782, contains the proceedings of the court-martial of Captain Lippincott, a member of the Associated Loyalists, who was

Items 195-196

accused of killing a prisoner. The trial was held in New York City, May 3-June 22, 1782, by order of Sir Guy Carleton, who later transmitted the proceedings to General Washington.

Item 195, Oaths of Allegiance, 1776-89

Roll

- 201 Card Index No. 3, an alphabetical index to this Item, and oaths of allegiance and oaths of office taken by military officers and appointees to public office.

Item 196, Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal, 1776-83

Executed bonds that were transmitted to Congress by the States as required before the States could grant to commanders of private ships of war the letters of marque and reprisal authorizing them to capture British vessels and cargoes. Each bond contains the names and usually the residences of the bonders, the date and amount of the bond, the name and description of the ship, and the names of the ship's master and usually of its owners. The bonds are arranged alphabetically by name of ship. Lists of the commanders and the ships are reproduced on roll 204.

Roll

- 202 Abingdon - Fairplay (vols. I-IV)
203 Fairtrader - Nancy (vols. V-X)
204 Nansemond - Zephyr (vols. XI-XVI)

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All numerical references in this index identify "Item" numbers of the 196 series of records described in the "Contents."

This is an index solely to the "Contents." It is not an index to the introductory remarks, to roll notes for Microfilm Publication M247, or to the original records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses.

"See also" references to the card and bound-manuscript indexes pertain to those indexes as listed preceding the description of Item 1 on the first page of the "Contents."

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, DC 20408



March 10, 1977

Ms. Virginia L. Close
Reference Department
Baker Memorial Library
Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH 03755

Dear Ms. Close:

We have received your letter of February 23rd concerning publication of our indexes to the Papers of the Continental Congress.

The indexes are being published in two parts: (1) a consolidated index to the previously published Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789, edited by Worthington Chauncey Ford et al. (34 volumes; Washington; GPO, 1904-37), and (2) a detailed computer-assisted subject and name index to the 188 numbered series of records in the Papers other than the manuscript journals. The latter will also index the Miscellaneous (unnumbered) Papers of the Continental Congress and the official Records of the Constitutional Convention (Microfilm Publications M332 and M866), which constitute a smaller portion of the Records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and the Constitutional Convention (Record Group 360).

The Index to the Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789 was published last year. It alphabetically consolidates indexes found in 15 of the 34 volumes of the printed Journals. Because the published Journals reproduce in letterpress form the original series of journals among the Papers, the manuscript journals have not been reindexed in the larger computer-assisted index. The Index to the Journals is available for \$8.60 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. The following should be specified when ordering copies: stock no. 022-000-00126-4; catalog no. GS4.2:C76/2/774-89.

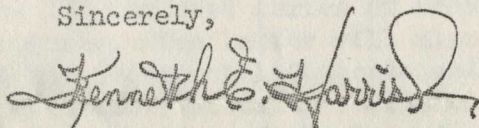
You are correct in your assumption that the subject and name index to the Papers will supersede the card and bound-manuscript indexes reproduced on rolls 1-7 of M247. The old "indexes" in the microfilm publication are not technically indexes. They are merely lists of the names of senders and recipients of about 2/3 of the numbered documents in the Papers and do not index either names or subjects found in the contents of the records.

The computer-assisted index to the Papers includes about 500,000 entries, listing all personal and place names and subjects mentioned in each of the 160,000 pages of records, excluding the journals. We expect all editorial work on this 16,000-page computer printout index to be completed at the end of this month. The corrected computer tapes will then be turned over to the Government Printing Office for publication of the multi-volume index. The information now in printout format will be converted by the GPO to a more traditional three-column book index format before publication. We do not presently know either the number of volumes that will be published or the estimated cost of the index. Though we hope that the GPO will manage to publish the index within a few months after receiving the tapes, we have no control over their publishing schedule and cannot estimate a publication date.

I understand that the Index to the Journals is being distributed to the depository libraries, and I assume that the multi-volume index to the Papers will also. If you want to check on this matter, I would advise you to correspond in a few months with Mr. David I. Eggenberger, Director of our Publications Division, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. 20408.

Please call on us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



KENNETH E. HARRIS
Assistant Chief
Diplomatic Branch

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Lorraine from VLC

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You asked about indexing to the Papers of the Continental Congress. We lack the indexes on film as you know from Greg Schwarz' inquiry. I told you I had written about the new indexing. This letter has the response--red-lined sections. We will not get the card indexes on film but wait for publication of the new index.

You can keep this copy for your information

18 March 1977